

# THE GATEWAY

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/PETE YEE

## Break-ins, personal thefts increasing

SEAN STEELS  
Senior News Editor

A recent rise in incidences of theft and break-ins has campus security warning people to stay vigilant regarding the safety of their belongings.

Between the months of January and March, theft from automobiles is up 144 per cent, with 26 incidences. This is an increase from nine last year and eight the year before during the same time period. Personal thefts have increased 20 per cent from the same period last year with a total of 96 reported and have been occurring most in SUB and Rutherford Library.

Campus Security Services has yet to identify any trends in the thefts, but most seem to be crimes of opportunity, where electronics or other valuables were left unattended or visible in vehicles. Theft from cars has seen its biggest increase near the new Saville Centre and — in a strange coincidence considering its proximity to Campus Security's offices — Education Car Park.

"Some people just have lots of junk strewn about their vehicle, so when a criminal comes along and sees that, they might just want to explore and

see if there's anything of value," said Stephanie Hartwig, a peace officer with CSS. "Also, these guys are occasionally drug addicts; they're trying to get as much money as possible to fuel their addiction, so they'll break in to get change."

Seeing an increase in campus crime this time of year isn't unusual. As students become involved with their study routines, they become less attentive of their belongings and are more likely to leave them unattended. However, the size of the spike this year seems to indicate an overall increase in criminal activity, according to Hartwig.

"Word gets around amongst them that there's a great place on campus where people leave their laptops lying around. If there is one guy or girl or couple that just got out of jail or moved in the area, they'll hit it up really hard," she said.

In fact, occurrences of theft on campus are rarely perpetrated by students, Hartwig explained. Students generally won't risk crimes such as personal theft when the repercussions are so severe and they could be so easily identified.

PLEASE SEE **CRIME** ♦ PAGE 4

**STUDY BREAK AND ENTER** Common student spaces such as SUB and Rutherford have seen an increase in thefts.

## Trimester system best for U of A: retired profs

STEPHANIE REEVES  
News Writer

Two retired professors from the University of Alberta School of Business have suggested that the U of A move to what they say would be a more efficient trimester system.

Allan Warrack and Ross Denham propose a model that would be made up of three equal 13-week academic terms, and argue that it would provide many benefits to students and faculty members.

By having a third semester, it would provide more efficient use of the facilities at the University because the buildings would be used year-round.

"With any capital facility, it is more efficient if fully used," Warrack stated.

The proposal also addresses accessibility. Many degree requirements need specific courses only taught in fall and winter semesters, but the trimester system would allow for courses to be offered at more times.

"It is more effective for students and potential students if they have more choices about how they can enter university and how they can complete their [education] requirements," Warrack said.

"This proposal hopes to reboot what the University does so that it matches how peoples' lives and lifestyles change."

The trimester system would also allow students the opportunity to pick which semesters they would like to attend without jeopardizing their quality of education, the proponents argue. Students could work if financial constraints were an issue, take time off for personal reasons, or have the choice to finish their degree at an accelerated rate.

In addition, having trimesters would help facilitate the employment issues many students face during the summer and upon graduation.

"There would be a smaller surge of students entering the marketplace per term, so it leads to less competition [for jobs]," Warrack said.

Warrack also felt that the current economic situation makes it a good time to make a change.

"There are a lot of things the University could do better and the trimester system could address these issues," he stated. "Even if the total cost [of implementation] may be higher, what would be clear is that the cost per student would be lower, because of the efficiencies, facility



PETE YEE

**THREE TIMES THE CHARM** Year-round building use could improve efficiency.

utilization, and accessibility."

Warrack said that he has tried to bring his idea forward to the public, the University's Board of Governors, and the Senate.

"Unless there is sufficient pressure from the public, change won't happen. This is something that is readily feasible; it's just the will to do it that's the issue."

U of A Vice President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark acknowledged that a task force had been charged

with selecting appropriate cost-saving measures for the University to pursue. The trimester idea was not one of those selected; however, the proposal hasn't been written off.

"The terms of reference constrained [the task force] to look for one major project to recommend for further work. This project was not chosen," Clark said via email.

"We are recommending our task force. It will still be on [their possibility] list."

## FAs declare market mod. preference

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE  
News Staff

The University of Alberta's professional faculty associations understand the need for market modifiers and are on board, with some conditions.

The Business Students' Association has sent a letter to Dean of Business Michael Percy saying that they understand the need for the proposed market modifier, though President Thomson Leung said that they're not happy about increases.

"We obviously don't want to see tuition increase, but sometimes it needs to. It's difficult for us to support it, but we understand why it's necessary," he said.

Leung also said that the U of A School of Business has fairly low tuition compared to others.

"The dean's office has been extremely transparent with us in terms of our tuition compared to other comparable business schools across the country," he said.

PLEASE SEE **FAs** ♦ PAGE 2



### Boosted benefits

Alix Kemp takes a critical look at the U of A administration's payroll and bonuses.

OPINION, PAGE 7



### Lost weight

The Gateway's contingent of fat-fighters discuss who shed the most pounds in our Freshman 15 challenge.

FEATURE, PAGE 10-11

### End of the line

That's it — the Gateway is taking a well-deserved break from here on out. Watch newsstands next week for a special treat, and thegatewayonline.ca for our summer issues starting May 6. Thanks to all our readers and volunteers this year!



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## colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **FENICE**, **Joanna**, **Kepler** and **Whitney**. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's game of choice is *Civilization II*.

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## Financial aid should be prioritized: FAs

FAs ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"A market modifier" is bringing back on par with what other business students from other schools are paying."

Leung said that with an increase to cost, they also expect improvements to the school.

"It is an investment in the school," he said. "We're expecting to see improvements in the future, in terms of quality of instruction [and] the profile of our school. [This] would, in turn, help out not only the alumni but undergraduates who would be seeking employment."

The fees will be grandfathered so that current students will not be surprised with extra costs. Leung also said the faculty is focusing on providing financial aid.

"All university students obviously see value in postsecondary education," he said. "One of the things that they're working on is scholarships, bursaries, and things like that."

Leung said that the BSA has no official position on the Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Services Fee.

The Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association also sent a letter to their dean, James Kehrer.

President Tim Leung explained their position, saying that they realize the fee is necessary, but want a guarantee it will be used to meet students' needs.

"We polled our members and the general consensus was that we were supportive of a market modifier fee," he said. "A very important thing for our members was that we would be able to see the value of the added fees that we're paying. We want to see something come back, something tangible."

In order to ensure that there were



PETE YEE

**MODIFY US** Professional faculty associations are accepting market modifiers.

some benefits to students, in their letter, APSA outlined what initiatives they want made a priority for students.

They also outline an expected structure of how the market modifier fee will be administered, including grandfathering.

"[Grandfathering and financial aid] are the two big things that we thought were important to include to maintain the accessibility of this program," Tim Leung noted.

In regards to the CoSSS fee, Tim Leung said he didn't feel comfortable commenting, but their letter does state a condition.

"The administration will not propose an increase in the market modification, or other fees, above the rate of inflation," they wrote.

The Law Students' Association wrote

a letter to their dean as well, outlining priorities, including financial aid and a rebate to the CoSSS fee.

"We as students do not endorse the user fee proposed by central administration. We appreciate the rebate idea that you have presented in order to keep student costs as low as possible," the LSA noted.

The Medical Students' Association are also understanding of a market modifier, as long as it is a one-time adjustment. They also address the CoSSS fee.

"All new fees assessed to students by the University or the Faculty between 2010 and 2016, including but not limited to the CoSSS fee, instructional, or non-instructional fees, and facility expenses, will be paid by the Faculty for all students paying the 'Market Modifier.'"

## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Simon Yackulic and Dan McKechnie**Byron Vass**  
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U of A visitor**Mustafa Ghani**  
Arts I*As you may be aware, the Quebec government is moving to require people to show their faces when receiving government services or if employed by the government.*

## Do you think this move by Quebec is justifiable?

I think that it's a little backwards that this is happening in Canada. We pride ourselves on being multicultural and try to respect that. It just seems odd that we're trying to force our culture onto people.

I would say that isn't justifiable because that is a problem with religious freedom, and one should be entitled to that. It's moving away from everyone's individual rights and moving towards standardization. I think that is really the big problem with society right now.

Yes I do, because you have to be able to prove who you are, and if you're veiled, you can't necessarily demonstrate that.

I don't see why one needs to unveil to receive particular services. I think it's just "Oh, we can't see your face and so we don't know what you're hiding, so we don't want to serve you because we're afraid of you." I think it's ridiculous.

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## from the archives

## "Edmonton Serbs protest military strikes in Yugoslavia"

April 1, 1999

Over 100 people, mostly members of Edmonton's Serbian community, held a rally Tuesday evening in front of City Hall, the latest in the nightly demonstrations there protesting NATO and Canadian military involvement in Yugoslavia.

Tuesday's demonstration featured a number of speeches by both Serbian and non-Serbian Canadians, followed by a march around City Hall's central fountain area.

*From the Archives is a regular feature that explores the storied history of the Gateway, the University of Alberta's student newspaper since 1910. To read the full story and to explore our entire archive, check out [thegatewayonline.ca/archives](http://thegatewayonline.ca/archives).*

## CORRECTION

In the story "\$290 student fee approved for 2010/11," the article should read that the Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Services fee applies to off-campus students, such as a student enrolled in a collaborative course at the U of A through another institution. Augustana students are considered to be on campus, and therefore have to pay the entire \$290 fee. The Gateway regrets the error.



# Dogs’ origin traced to Middle East

NATHAN LIEWICKI  
News Staff

James Knowles, a master’s student of biological sciences at the University of Alberta, was involved in a study that claims that domestic dogs, according to genetic data, likely originated in the Middle East.

A team of biologists from the University of California, Los Angeles, conducted the study. Knowles spent most of his time doing analysis and lab work for the project.

The genetic data suggests that the origin of modern dogs is directly tied to Middle Eastern grey wolves, and not East Asian wolves as originally thought.

“I’ve been doing population genetics data since my undergrad at Queen’s, and so when it came to an M.Sc., I came here to work on it in greater detail. I took on a project that had me use genetic information to look at grey wolf populations,” Knowles said.

Published in the journal *Nature* in mid-March, the paper explores three different ways of evaluating which populations of wolves are most likely to be the ancestors of the modern dog. Phylogenetic trees infer evolutionary relationships between biological species by tracking species evolution in the same way a family tree is represented.

“Based on phylogenetic trees, you can see some instances where Middle Eastern wolves pop out and share common ancestors with dogs,” Knowles said.

Another evaluation technique used by the UCLA contingent were haplotype structures. These structures are basically long segments of DNA chromosomes.

“Using haplotype structures, you are able to compare modern dogs and modern wolves to determine which populations of wolves dogs share more unique haplotypes with,”



CLAUDINE CHAMPION

**CATCHY CANINES** The research on dogs has gained international attention.

Knowles explained.

“In different populations there is inevitably going to be some haplotypes that are going to be unique to different wolf populations. However, when you find which wolf populations dogs tend to share more haplotypes with, that gives you a greater idea that more genes coming from that population are linked with dogs.”

Nonetheless, the study was unequivocally aided by a technological innovation called the single nucleotide polymorphism genotyping chip. The chip, which examines the nucleotides at some 48,000 locations in the genome, allows researchers to see an array of genetic data.

“SNPs provide us with a great picture of the entire genome instead of using a small subset of markers. There are also way more sites in a chromosome

that can be analyzed with the SNP chip because it can determine whether a chromosome is an A+T type or A+C type as compared to just A, C, G, or T,” Knowles explained.

As far as the study has taken researchers in determining the origin of dogs, pinpointing the exact location of dogs remains unknown. One thing that research has shown and is widely agreed upon, however, is that dogs are roughly about 15,000 years old.

Although the paper has only been available to the public for slightly more than two weeks, it has already received prominent readership and media attention.

“I’m surprised at the reception the study has received already. Even Stephen Colbert committed a segment of his show to the study,” Knowles stated.

## 5-0 nabs bookstore fraudsters

SIMON YACKULIC  
News Staff

Fraudulent transactions on campus are on the rise this year, and the majority of cases involve students trying to sell stolen books back to the U of A Bookstore.

According to Campus Security Services Officer Stephanie Hartwig, there were only eight fraud cases reported between January and March last year, while Campus Security Services has already dealt with 15 since January.

While she couldn’t comment on the specific cases as the students involved are facing criminal charges, she noted that some of the suspects “have done it over and over again,” and were scamming thousands of dollars.

“I don’t know why that is — maybe the economic situation, maybe just that word got out that ‘hey, you can try this, it’s a great thing to try,’” Hartwig said.

Specifically, a common fraud involves students stealing textbooks from the bookstore and then attempting to sell them back under the bookstore’s buy-back program.

“Obviously, their main motivating factor is money, no matter how little — they’ll sell a \$180 textbook for \$15,” Hartwig explained.

“There have been cases where you look at this student’s record for the past four years [and] there has been

like \$1,500 that they’ve managed to get,” she said.

Hartwig noted that the bookstore has been implementing security measures to both discourage potential thieves and to catch fraudsters.

Along with video surveillance, the bookstore asks for customers to provide either a One Card or driver’s license. They also keep detailed records of merchandise and clientele.

“If Joe Student comes and he sells this book in linguistics, they can pull up the student’s class schedule and be like, ‘you’ve never taken a linguistics course, why are you selling a linguistics book?’” Hartwig said.

“They steal it from the bookstore, then they try to sell it back to the bookstore. But they don’t realize that there’s a record of whether or not that book was stolen. And we also keep a record of all previous books that they’ve sold.”

The more creative fraudsters seem to have realized that the U of A has caught on to them, and it seems that they have been attempting to either steal textbooks from the U of A and sell them at Grant MacEwan University, or vice-versa. Unfortunately for them, the two institutions have realized this and are sharing information to discourage the practice.

Hartwig noted that collaboration between the various book outlets and the security services will be the most effective deterrent in the future regarding book fraud.

## CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

### DRUNK SPELUNK

Just after 2:30 a.m. on March 26, East Campus Village residents reported a group of intoxicated people running around in the construction site of the new graduate student residence. Officers attended and located four males in the area. They were identified as current students and directed home.

### BETTER CALL A WAHMBULANCE

Campus 5-0 were on routine patrol just after 1 a.m. on March 28 when they were flagged down by people in the bus loop reporting a distraught female by the Administration building. They attended the area and located a female student crying. She had just had a fight with her boyfriend, who later arrived on scene. It was determined that everything was okay and the couple headed home for the night.

### A WICKED NO-COMPLY

CSS officers located skateboarders stunting around the front entrance to ECERF at around 5 p.m. on March 28. The males attempted to flee the area but were eventually stopped. They attempted to lie about their identities to CSS, but were eventually identified as current students. Code of Student Behavior charges are now pending for one of the males who was uncooperative with CSS.

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# Fostering an open dialogue on mental health

JONATHAN TAVES  
Deputy News Editor

As stress levels ramp up during finals over April, a group of medical students are hoping people take time to care for their mental health.

The Medical Students for Mental Health Awareness club will be hosting Mental Health Awareness week from April 12–16, giving students from all faculties a chance to attend seminars on the subject on the top floor of the Katz Building.

“[MHAW] is a chance for different organizations from the city and the University to talk about mental illness and give students and future doctors information on how to help themselves, help their families, help their future patients, and fight stereotypes,” explained Misha Hartfeil, club leader and second-year med student organizing the event.

Though the sessions are typically directed towards med students, other disciplines are encouraged to attend as mental health is an issue that affects everyone, said Trisha Chakrabarty, another club leader and second-year student.

“One of our goals this year is to try to get more undergraduates, and also students from other health faculties,” she said. “[But] especially as medical students, no matter what specialty we go into, we’re going to be dealing with people with mental illness [like] depression and bipolar. We just see it as a really important supplement to the instruction that we do get.”

Raising awareness of mental health issues, especially among the student-age population is a valuable endeavour for many reasons, noted Austin Mardon, schizophrenia sufferer and a prominent mental health advocate who was named to the Order of Canada in 2007 for his work.

“You can see around this time of year, students going a bit bonkers,” he said. “Some people never get out of that. The stress of final exams and stuff get you into a funk, where in some cases, like in my case, bring on schizophrenia. I never got out of it.”



SUPPLIED

**AWARENESS AWARD** Mardon (left) receives the Order of Canada from GG Michaëlle Jean.

Mardon commended events like Mental Health Awareness Week for starting a healthy dialogue on these topics.

“The best thing [about MHAW] is that students themselves are trying to raise awareness of mental illness and how to prevent it and how to deal with it. It doesn’t necessarily mean that you won’t get a degree or get a job, but you might have to accommodate it,” he said. “A lot of people are afraid to come out of the closet and say they have mental illness because of the incredible discrimination and stigma that can occur. [Then] they don’t seek treatment and ultimately get sicker than they otherwise would have.”

Hartfeil also pointed out how illnesses often surface while people are students.

“Our age group right now, that’s when things start to show. So if you’re going to get

schizophrenia, you’re going to get it around 20. If you’re going to get depression or bipolar, it’s going to show up around now,” she said. “For us, and just for students in general, it’s an important thing to be aware, just so you can recognize it in yourself, know where you can go for help, and know how to help your friends and family.”

Mardon said that reducing the stigma around mental illnesses can help people cope, and there is hope for those who are diagnosed.

“When I was first diagnosed at the U of A hospital, the doctors told me there was no hope. But there is and can be. Life can continue, it just might change,” he said. “Instead of being a professor now in geography as I wanted to be, my life changed [and] it went from one of intellectual activity, to service to people who are really under-represented and misunderstood.”

# Thefts occurring during business hours: Hartwig

CRIME ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Also making things harder on investigators is the U of A’s low density of security cameras, making identification of non-students or staff an exceedingly difficult task.

“The other issue with cameras is that you have this picture of a person committing a crime, but depending on the quality of the image, do you really know who that is? It doesn’t stop crimes from occurring either,” Hartwig said.

**“These crimes are happening Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are people around.”**

**STEPHANIE HARTWIG**  
CAMPUS SECURITY OFFICER

Most personal thefts are solved after the fact, as the result of property recovery, but there’s more that students should be doing to prevent crimes from occurring. For example, most locker break-ins happen during business hours and in public areas, with ETLC and Business being hit hardest.

“The people whose lockers are getting broken into, we’re 99 per cent sure that the criminal is watching them put their property in their locker, so we discourage people from putting any valuables in their locker,” she said.

“To break open a locker, you need a pair of bolt cutters — it’s going to make a lot of noise. Some lockers even get pried open, and many of these crimes are happening Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are people around, and there have to be people who can see this going on.”



## TONIGHT!

## BECAUSE TOMORROW'S A HOLIDAY!

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**CANADA'S PUB**



# Video games bridging gender gap

EMMA ORNHOLT  
The Muse (Memorial University)

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. (CUP) — Matthew White doesn't just love video games — they've become his livelihood. The 23-year-old PhD candidate in Education, has formulated his thesis around the educational abilities of role-playing games.

White sees these types of games as learning tools, especially since in recent years, gaming has started to be absorbed into the educational system. Many games involve complicated and highly developed plot lines, inspiring teachers to include them in their curricula, according to White.

"It's not the brainless vegetation activity we previously thought it was [...] I think there's certainly a place for video games in children's lives," White said in an interview with the *Globe and Mail* earlier this month.

In his research, White noticed that female students were much less responsive to the exercise than their male counterparts. His work attempts to understand the gender divide in the gaming world.

He disagrees with theories that proclaim women aren't biologically inclined to game (due to, supposedly, lower spatial awareness scores on IQ tests), and that gaming is just not appealing to women.

White hopes to disprove this theory, and, by extension, prove that the disproportionate numbers of women in the gaming world may be due to a gender stigma in North America. He cites Asian countries as an example, where the ratio of male to female gamers are more equal in some cases.

"A possible reason for the divide in North America is from games being



UP AND AWAY White hopes to overcome the gender stigma around gaming.

closely associated with male culture," White said.

"The exception to this was the [Nintendo] Wii. The ratio of men to women playing it is equal. I attribute this to the controls used by Wii. As a wholly new tool, everyone who began to play it was a novice."

White hopes to employ learning-process analyses from cognitive psychology in his approach. He will organize two focus groups consisting of women with no or limited experience with gaming. He plans to set both groups to play *World of Warcraft* for 12 hours over a period of three or four days.

One of these groups will play games with a standard game-play tutorial interface, while the other will feature computer-aided, sound-based instruction.

White and a colleague will be designing the second system, and he says it will be similar to e-learning and job training tutorials. The goal of the experimental instruction method is to build the player's experiences from the ground up.

"Games assume you already have experience, which can severely affect someone's confidence," he said.

This study will measure the level of gaming difficulty for each individual player. White hopes that this study will help bridge the gender gap as role-playing games begin appearing as educational tools.

"It will give a player, especially a beginner, much more agency over the material."

White will present at the Canadian Game Studies Association conference in Montreal in May.

## Open letter stirs national advocacy debate

EMMA GODMERE  
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) — Student groups across the country are showing cautious optimism following a recent motion by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations to look into "federal co-operation" of student organizations at provincial and national levels.

Members of the national student lobbying group — the second largest in Canada — were motivated by an anonymous "Open Letter to Canada's Student Leaders" posted on the website [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com) in February that called for a unified national federation where provincial organizations could continue to work independently.

"I think the letter adds to the ongoing discussion that's been happening for several years," said Dan Moulton, president of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, a CASA-affiliated provincial lobby group.

"OUSA's always been a supporter of this concept of stronger student representation at the federal and national level, and we're excited to see where this discussion's going, now that CASA and la Fédération Étudiante Universitaire du Québec, a Quebec student lobby group, have passed motions to endorse an interest in exploring this concept," he said.

"We're excited to continue these discussions with our partners across the country."

According to Louis-Philippe Savoie, vice-president of University Affairs with FÉUQ, the Quebec organization adopted a motion similar to CASA's this past February.

"We already have, certainly, involvement in the federal scene — we work with both the [Canadian Federation of Students], CASA, and other provincial organizations on an issue-to-issue basis, [and it] has been working pretty well so far," he said.

"However, there was a certain interest to create greater links with all the provincial and federal organizations; for example, to share information about the situation of university accessibility, or issues that can go on in various provinces," he continued.

"We think there's much to learn from our colleagues in other provinces across Canada."

**"If there [are] any changes in moving forward, that should be done under one framework where everyone works together instead of being divided and working on separate issues."**

KATHERINE GIROUX-BOUGARD  
NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON, CFS

Savoie clarified that the FÉUQ's top priorities will remain the same, regardless of any future partnerships.

It is unclear whether it will be possible for CASA and the CFS to discuss working together on national postsecondary education issues. A majority of CFS member locals voted down a motion that proposed exploring the potential for consultations and discussions with CASA at the November 2009 CFS general meeting.

"There's already a framework for doing that work and there's already a democratic process for making changes within that framework, which is the

Canadian Federation of Students," said Katherine Giroux-Bougard, national chairperson for the CFS.

"If there [are] any changes in moving forward, that should be done under one framework where everyone works together instead of being divided and working on separate issues," she said.

When asked if a united student movement currently exists, student leaders were hesitant to respond.

"[The idea of] the Canadian Federation of Students is that ultimately there should be a united student movement where all students work together," said Giroux-Bougard,

who mentioned that the idea of the anonymous open letter that has reopened partnership discussion was "bizarre."

"I think it requires a lot of work, but it is possible to have a united student movement," she said.

"There are groups that are united amongst themselves," said Mark Coffin, executive director for the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations.

"In the foreseeable future, there's going to be these two student groups, [CFS and CASA]; so no, I don't think [the student movement] is united," he said.

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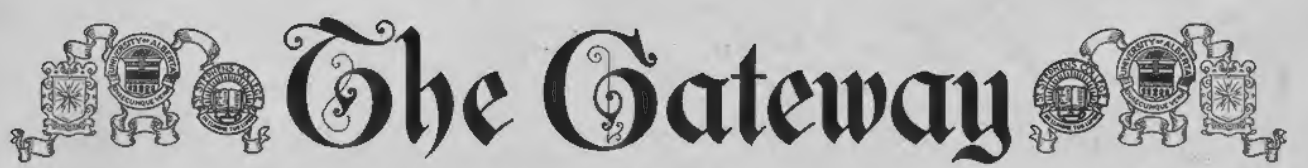
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**Do you have old issues of the Gateway or any other Gateway-related items of historical significance?**

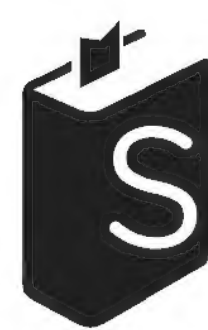
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The Gateway celebrates its official centennial anniversary on November 20, 2010 at the Chateau Lacombe in Downtown Edmonton. Watch for more information in future issues of the Gateway, or contact the GAA.



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## Live out your own dreams, not mine

STICK AROUND LONG ENOUGH, KID, AND YOU'LL learn things. That's what I'm supposed to say here, right? As is so-called "tradition" around these parts, the *Gateway's* last editorial of the year gives an outgoing editor a soap box to spout off the truths and realities of being a university student, as learned in the half decade most of us spend at the U of A.

If you've loyally followed our fine little publication since the start of the school year, then I regret to inform you that there's no prize. Sorry to get your hopes up. If you didn't do it just for the swag, though, some of you might remember my sagely wisdom offered up during Week of Welcome, urging you all to make the most of your time in university, as if I were some kind of authority on postsecondary productivity.

Dig even deeper into our archives, and you'll find a quip from last year's final issue — likely when many people *actually* expected me to kiss this place goodbye — in which I offered a word of thanks to my supporters, and a pithy refusal to apologize for any toes I may have stepped on. My, how a year can humble even the proudest iconoclast.

Being in a place like the U of A is both an empowering and enlightening point in one's life. Whether you've been here for a year, or six, it's likely you've been completely taken in — if not overwhelmed — by what the veterans call "the university experience." Regardless of where you are today, there's a very good chance that you're a different person than you were in September.

And this may truly be the most difficult part of being here. Eight months ago, I urged you all to let your time here simply play out, growing into who you are, and not necessarily into who you *want* to be. This advice still holds true, but it's not always as easy as hanging a framed slogan like that above your desk and telling yourself that you'll stick to it. It's just as common to find yourself caught between the crossroads of principles and pragmatism, with the outcome of either choice a distant and foggy uncertainty.

As insightful as I've tried to appear since my very first article appeared in this newspaper five years ago, even I've wandered astray of my own advice at times. For example, terrified of compromising my principles as a make-believe journalist, I spent years avoiding apologies until I realized that even the best of us are wrong at the worst of times. It's through experiences like these that I've discovered that you can't possibly stick to the same rigid doctrines through life and expect to grow.

That's because there's no magic formula, no clever verse, and no perfect science to how anyone should approach being a student, or even an adult for that matter. Who am I to tell you that you're wasting your time in school by rushing through a four-year degree without getting involved in student organizations or politics? I have few regrets about the time I've spent here, but I can't expect that the path me or any of my peers have chosen is the textbook definition of how to make the most of your university career.

Whenever you can, take the route you want, but accept that you can't always be in the driver's seat. As romantic as it may sound to live without compromise, the truly valourous are those who know that others may not share the same methods or goals. The world is a mean and scary place, and it might take one tough son of a bitch to survive it, but without a healthy coating of humility beneath all those layers of experience and confidence, you're no better off than where you started.

With that, I leave the editor's seat a little wiser, a little more experienced, and a lot more humble. Though we've ruffled feathers and broken hearts, it's my hope that the *Gateway* has contributed something positive to your undergrad experience, even if that's something as small as a few words of advice. Rather than apologize to those I might have pissed off in my time here, I'll extend the same gratitude to them as I will to my colleagues: friend or foe, allies or rivals, we've all played a part in one another's student lives, and we've all come out better because of it.

Thanks for the thrills, everyone.

MIKE KENDRICK  
Editor-in-Chief



## A SUREFIRE WAY TO KILL UNIVERSITY DEBT

ROSS VINCENT

### letters TO THE eds

#### Women's studies more open than most think

RE: (*Women's studies too straight and narrow, March 30*)

While I realize that the opinion section is an acceptable place for Alix Kemp to carry out his vendetta against "white, middle-class, straight women," after reading his latest editorial, I felt compelled to respond.

While Alix is free to hate Women's Studies, I was offended by the total misrepresentation and lack of facts presented in this editorial. Alix noted that "patriarchy doesn't only affect females. It also affects queers, transgendered people, and even men." I'd like to point out that the Women's Studies department is likely the only one on campus that is aware of this fact and discusses it on a daily basis.

I'm used to ignorant comments about Women's Studies classes being a place for "oblivious white girls" to "debate about whether feminists are allowed to marry their boyfriends," but I was disappointed to see such a blatant lie in print in the campus newspaper. In reality, Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program that deals with a broad list of topics, ranging from feminism and sexuality, to queer theory, to psychoanalysis, to name a few.

The U of A Women's Studies

department may not have changed its name to the more politically correct "Gender and Sexuality studies," but that doesn't mean it is "dedicated only to discussing how oppressed women are."

Rather than condemning an entire department based on one bad experience in one class taken in his first year, Alix might consider broadening his mind and giving Women's Studies another try. I would suggest WST 332: Contemporary Feminist Theory, where we've just finished discussing transfeminism and are moving onto postcolonial feminisms. Or, if Alix is still interested in learning about men, there's always WST 460: Masculinities.

MEGAN KARIUS  
Education II

#### Prohibition just a source of income for criminals

RE: (*Armour restrictions won't stop crime, March 30*)

I cannot help but wonder how our politicians came up with the concept that creating a new bureaucracy to monitor some inanimate object would somehow influence the behaviour of criminals.

First off, violence and aggression are behaviour problems, not object problems. Second, if criminal organizations have no problem smuggling illegal drugs, weapons, SUVs and prostitutes for their "clients," I am quite confident they will also be able to provide them with "illegal" body armour. What will our politicians

do next? Create more bureaucracy? Maybe they should start dealing with the real problem!

MICHEL TRAHAN  
Verdun, QC

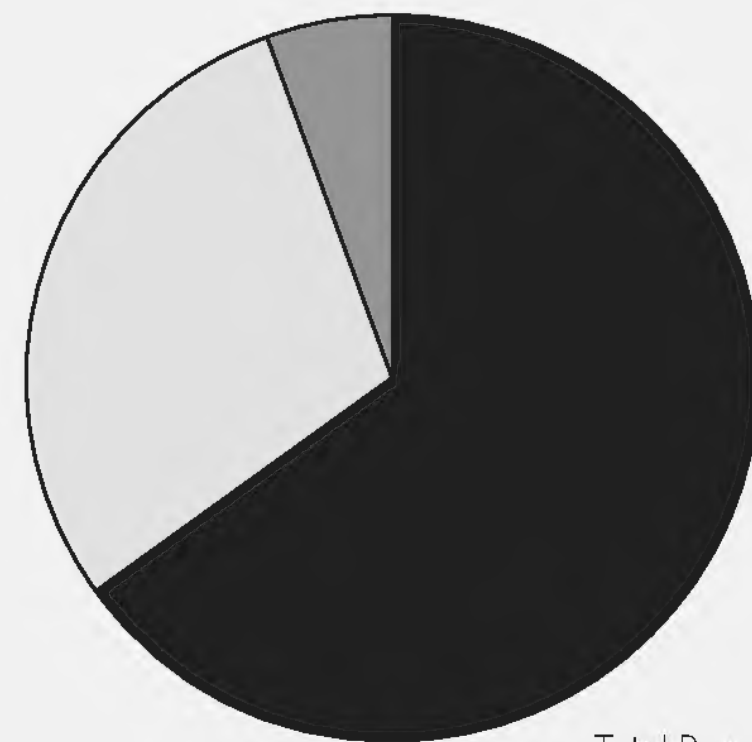
Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca) or via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Website comments may also be printed.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The *Gateway* also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number to be considered for publication.

### readerpoll

"The SU recently reformed the policy for DFUs, stipulating that they must benefit students directly. Do you support this move?"



Total Responses: 166

- No; it closes off the potential to support worthy issues, and the referendum system is adequate. (30%)
- Yes; I don't want my tuition money going to causes that don't produce any tangible benefit for me. (66%)
- Meh; my parents pay my tuition anyways. (5%)



# Sacrifices should extend to University administration

Indira Samarasekera’s ridiculous paycheque and benefits aren’t helping the incredible \$59 million deficit plaguing our campus



ALIX  
KEMP

On Friday afternoon, I got a charming email from University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera. She just wanted to let me know that the Board of Governors had approved the University’s 2010/11 operating budget, that I get the privilege of paying an extra \$290 in tuition next year, and that, oh yeah, the U of A will still be \$14.8 million in the hole. In order to address the shortfall, all faculties are going to have to reduce spending by five per cent across the board, which translates into massive layoffs and pay cuts.

In addition, she wanted to assure us that an *Edmonton Journal* article detailing the \$100 million poured into

administrative costs is “misleading.” And despite a promise last Friday to “respond in detail early next week” to the article, as of press time, our good friend still hasn’t graced our inboxes with a new message about the pertinent issue of her expenses.

Since Indira simply doesn’t have the time to fill us in on the details, allow me to share a few. The U of A administration is the most costly out of any school in Canada. The base salary for our executives ranges from \$336,000 to Indira’s base salary of \$457,000 a year, making her the highest-paid university president in the country. In addition to her salary, she receives an additional \$373,000 in non-cash benefits, including a house and a personal chauffeur. For those of you who don’t have a calculator on hand, that works out to the stunning total of \$830,000, roughly 10 times what the average U of A professor makes.

Supposedly, these massive salaries are deserved. After all, from 2008 to

2009, the U of A’s ranking on the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* rose from 74th to 59th. However, the University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, and McGill University all rank higher than the U of A, and pay their administrators significantly less. In 2007/08, McGill, ranked 18th in the world, but paid their principal the positively meagre amount of \$358,000. In the same year, Samarasekera’s base salary was \$436,000.

**The U of A administration is the most costly out of any school in Canada.**

If you’re particularly clever, you may have noticed that Samarasekera got a \$21,000 raise from 2008 to 2009; she also got an additional \$182,000 in benefits. Meanwhile, she’s sending


out patronizing emails thanking staff and students “for working hard and making [the] sacrifices needed” to balance the budget.

Administrative pay cuts won’t solve the budgetary shortfall. But there’s still absolutely no reason to be paying administrators massive salaries and handing out huge benefit packages while the faculties are being forced to cut expenses by five per cent and lay off academic staff, and students are made to fork out increasing amounts of money in non-instructional fees to pay for the University deficit. In various statements about budget concerns, nobody in the executive has once mentioned trimming their own income. Instead, they argue their salaries are well-deserved and necessary, a claim so obviously ludicrous that even addressing it seems obscene. Being ranked 59th in the world doesn’t make the administration automatically entitled to massive salaries and bonuses.

Indeed, the misguided goal of reaching “Top 20 by 2020” is partially

responsible for the financial mess the University is currently in. The economic concerns aren’t all that new, but we’re still spending hundreds of millions of dollars to cover our campus in cranes and construction, and hire top researchers with no teaching ability. Meanwhile, the budget for central administration has been increasing steadily and is now the highest in the nation, tuition and student debt are out of control, and the vast majority of students couldn’t care less about the U of A’s World University ranking. Regardless, they’re now expected to foot the bill.

If the University of Alberta’s administrators can’t be convinced to take a pay cut, there’s a round of involuntary layoffs happening in the next few months. Since students are paying to help bridge the gap, maybe we should get a voice in who gets let go. And before we start firing our professors and support staff, let’s send our bloated administration to the salary chopping block.



### After Degree Bachelor of Nursing

After graduating from the University of California in journalism, **Zoe Hoskins Light** trained with the Canadian National Rowing Team leading up to the 2008 Olympics. She is now pursuing a career in nursing at the University of Lethbridge.



“The dynamics of how the body works drew me to nursing, but I really like the human aspect of it – caring for people.”

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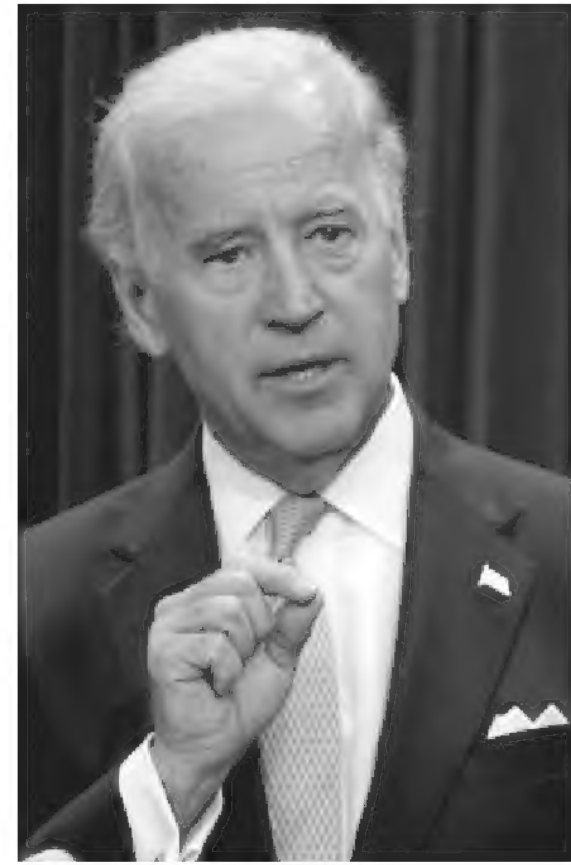
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**TORONTO**

# Corrupt Vatican too soft on pedophilia



TYLER  
DAWSON

**“This phenomenon is global, but in the United States alone, over 10,000 children, mostly boys, have been abused by at least 4,000 priests. And these are just the priests that have been charged with sexual offenses. The scale of this abuse is unbelievable, and it gets worse.”**

Recently, a bust in the Toronto area yielded 73 suspects in an international child pornography ring. The police stated that “the victimization of a child has a lifetime effect on their lives, their loved ones and the community at large,” a statement that acknowledges the severity of child abuse crimes. Already, the arrests of two men have been made because of *immediate* concern for the safety of children in their areas. Obviously, when such situations arise, we respond with severe legal consequences. But unfortunately, it would appear that in certain cases, if an institution commits pedophilic crimes on a colossal scale, they will be able to exercise their political clout to escape retribution.

I speak of the Catholic Church, and the multitude of disturbing revelations that have come to light recently. Not only have members of the priesthood committed crimes of child molestation, but it's now clear that the highest echelons of the Catholic Church have been complicit in shielding members of the priesthood from justice. This phenomenon is global, but in the United States alone, over 10,000 children, mostly boys, have been abused by at least 4,000 priests. And these are just

the priests that have been charged with sexual offenses. The scale of this abuse is unbelievable, and it gets worse.

The degeneracy of the Catholic Church has very few limits. For example, Reverend Lawrence C. Murphy of Wisconsin had systematically abused 200 young boys at St. John's School for the Deaf for a quarter of a century. In 1996, archbishops complained to the Vatican about Murphy, accusing him of pedophilia.

The response from the Vatican? Not a single thing. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, to whom these concerns were addressed, failed to respond to the letters of the American clergymen, including the Archbishop of Milwaukee. As Archbishop in the 1980s, Ratzinger approved the transfer of known pedophile Peter Hullermann into his diocese in Germany, where he went on to molest more children in his parish. Joseph Ratzinger is most famous now as Pope Benedict XVI.

Not only did Ratzinger fail to directly respond to the concerns of his underlings in sexual abuse cases, but it was also an appeal for leniency made to him by Lawrence Murphy in 1998 that compelled Vatican officials to retain Murphy within the priesthood.

Although Benedict XVI has a more aggressive record of dealing with pedophilia than his predecessor, it's when an obvious case of severe sexual abuse is dismissed that the legitimacy of the Vatican's internal rules is called into question.

Indeed, despite the fact that victims of abuse have personally alerted other members of the clergy, the Vatican had the audacity to denounce this scandal as an ignoble attempt by the media to tarnish the reputation of the Church and the Pope.

The evidence is compelling — the Catholic Church has systematically failed to act on numerous accounts of pedophilia. Their internal governance is clearly incapable of administering appropriate punishment. The solution is to apply secular, constitutional, and criminal laws to these men, and deal with them as justice demands — the institutional power of the Catholic Church be allowed to circumvent the rule of law. Indeed, British lawyers are planning a legal attack on Benedict XVI if he attempts to enter the United Kingdom this year. Let's hope they succeed — this is exactly the sort of judicial work necessary to bring a decidedly criminal organization to justice.

## Tuna conservation system needs a tune-up

Despite its dwindling numbers, the exotic bluefin continues to be overfished



DAVID  
KACZAN

Last week saw the passing of World Water Day. Those with a hydrologic inclination gathered at forums, speeches, movie screenings, and community events to reflect on all things watery. Here at the University of Alberta, a series of events were held by a non-profit organization, the Council of Canadians. Documentaries, words of wisdom, and tap water of the highest quality were all consumed with enthusiasm.

Although these celebrations were a victory for the drinking water cause, another watery matter of the marine variety sank with a crushing defeat. A proposal for a trade ban on the seriously endangered bluefin tuna was voted down this March at an international gathering in Doha, Qatar. A number of other restrictions proposed for similarly threatened species suffered the same fate.

A bluefin tuna is one on the world's most desirable fish. These aren't the canned fish in your sandwich; these are the delicacies served as the world's finest sashimi and sushi. They can grow to massive sizes, even over 450 kilograms, and have sold for \$100,000 apiece in Tokyo's legendary Tsukiji fish market. And thanks to our ability to vacuum them up from the ocean, their numbers are approximately 15 per cent of what they were only a few decades ago.

The tragedy is not just that of a fish species' demise. The law under which

the vote was held, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, was thought to be one international agreement with real clout. It has the power to ban trade in a species, and can force countries to halt unsustainable exploitation. For the first time, however, it was voting on a creature worth billions of dollars, and unsurprisingly, money won. Whether this amounts to pulling the teeth from this keystone environmental treaty is yet to be seen.

The primary antagonist in this failure was Japan. The country consumes

**Unfortunately for  
tuna, ICCAT is  
embarrassingly bad at  
fulfilling its mandate.**

80 per cent of the global catch, and ensures that its allies — many conveniently funded with Japanese aid money — attend such forums to repay with their vote. Proposal after proposal for species protection was defeated: the hammerhead and oceanic whitetip sharks (for shark fin soup), the spiny dogfish shark (for fish and chips), red and white corals (for jewellery), and more. In an despicable irony, the Japanese delegation even served the endangered bluefin at their welcome reception. Subtle.

For the most important case — that of the tuna — the excuse provided was that there already exists a body to regulate the catch: the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. Unfortunately for tuna, ICCAT is embarrassingly bad at fulfilling its mandate. In fishing circles (and perhaps amongst fish), it's darkly

quipped that the acronym stands for the “International Conspiracy to Catch All Tuna.” And given that it has overseen the near complete destruction of the Mediterranean tuna stock, it has a ring of truth to it.

Surprisingly, Japan has found solidarity with an unlikely ally: Canada. Ottawa voted against the treaty because it would end our own small, but very carefully managed, tuna fishing operations. Good management, however, is not something widely practiced elsewhere. Japan and the Mediterranean countries have run roughshod over the science for years. ICCAT's own scientists recommended a total catch for 2010 of 8,000 tonnes — a number which would still only result in an estimated 50 per cent chance of full recovery in about 13 years. However, they ignored this advice, as they have for decades, and settled for a limit of 13,500 tonnes. The problem is that you can't bargain with a fish, especially one that's critically endangered.

Blunt problems sometimes necessitate blunt instruments. A trade ban would have hurt countries that do the right thing. But given the failure of governments to stick to the advised quotas, it was needed as a last resort, as countries such as Japan seem determined to bring about scientists' worst fears. With the proposal's failure, however, that's no longer a possibility, and we might just see the extinction of bluefin tuna.

There is at least glimmer of hope in the water, as recent management changes are showing that another way is possible — a recent study published in *Science* magazine suggested that the decline in some fisheries has marginally slowed. But in the meantime, think carefully about where your sushi might be coming from.



# Drug tests shouldn't weed out pot use



LANCE  
MUDRYK

Give me your urine. And no, it's not for some weird fetish of mine. The reason I'm asking for your liquid waste has to do with my attempts at finding employment this summer. You see, the company that has expressed interest in hiring me has made quite a few demands.

They want me to provide proof of enrolment at the University, a recent driver's abstract, and two pieces of government-issued ID. I'm fine delivering these, though I have a problem with their fourth demand: that I complete a drug test within the next week or two.

When considering the basic test for cannabinoids, cocaine, amphetamines, opiates, and PCP, it seems understandable why an employer may not want to hire someone who is a heroin user, or someone who can't go 48 hours without smoking some crack. Those are

what many people, including *National Geographic*, consider to be hard drugs — substances that are physically and psychologically addictive, and are potentially very harmful with long-term use. Even though alcohol and nicotine are legalized and not tested for, they also fall into this category.

The problem I have with the procedure is that they also test for the most widely used illicit drug in Canada, marijuana, whose testable psychoactive properties stay in a person's urine for about a month. Exactly how long depends on how much is ingested and the body fat of the user, among other things. It's a drug that over 50 per cent of Canadians have admitted to trying, and is proven to be safer than alcohol, tobacco, and aspirin, which is grouped with more damaging substances.

In California, the legalization of cannabis will be voted on this fall. Although it's not guaranteed to pass by any means, it's a sign of the changing culture. And that's just as well, because employers aren't decreasing the chances of their employees getting high on the job when they know that they usually won't be subjected to random tests once employed. What they're effectively doing is adding an arbitrary defining

element to their hiring process.

I can see why the government may want to test for more illicit substances, though I don't know if they could do anything with that information. That being said, I don't see any reason why a company would make it their responsibility to enforce a law whose origin involves racial prejudice, moral panic, and a lack of informed debate.

It frustrates me that I presently risk losing a job because I enjoy mind-altering states just as much as 99 per cent of people do. There are many sources and studies available online to back up all the things I've said, and though I'm speaking to a university audience here, I believe there are still large campus populations who need to educate themselves on illicit substances, be it marijuana or otherwise.

I won't ask for your urine again. It probably wouldn't be warm enough anyway to do me much good. Though until marijuana is legalized or tests remove THC from their checklists, I'm left counting the days until I may light up again. Maybe I'll enjoy a few hits of LSD to make the time pass in a more entertaining fashion. Thank God they don't test for that, because I'm addicted.

# Hairstyles go even deeper than the roots



DAVID  
JOHNSTON

So, I'm nearing the end of my tenure on campus, inasmuch as I have one class left on my schedule, and my mind has inevitably turned to matters of post-graduate importance. Like what exactly I thought a BA (Drama) degree would provide for me other than a lovely placemat, should I choose to get it laminated. I'm told it can also fold into an origami swan.

But after getting my graduation announcement from the University honchos today, I realized there are some last-minute matters to settle before I graduate and join the best of 'em. Not finals, though; there are much more important things in my immediate future. Specifically, what my hair is going to look like in my grad photo.

And it's a little surprising, because you'd think after five years of higher learning, I would've learned to look

beyond appearances. No, I actually am this shallow, as it turns out. When I first meet people, I still inevitably judge them by their hair over much lesser traits such as their wit or personality.

As a matter of fact, it's been my personal mantra that many of those details can be extrapolated so easily from analyzing hairstyle choices. It's become the only thing we need to check as a society before knowing everything there is to know about a person. Sure, there are general stereotypes and traits that everyone tends to associate with hair, whether we like it or not. Red hair is tempestuous, buzz cuts indicate convenience, and heaven help you if you enter a job interview with a cowlick.

But those are merely superficial traits. The ability to read deeper into the significance of a person's coiffure, to locate patterns and signifiers where many would claim none exist — well, that's a valuable skill to have, and one that I've been working on, as I'm going to need something significant on my resume alongside that BA (Drama). My ability to analyze cautiousness through the breadth of the part, locate curiosity in the angle of the bangs, measure impulsiveness with the thickness of

sideburns, and determine social confidence from ponytail location is a near-oracular skill bordering on precognition. I call it "hairomancy."

It's an art that's possible because we live in a culture that values hair as such an important trait. The emphasis of cuts and trims are prevalent in the media, in the economy, and in everyday life. Learning to read between the streak lines is not just a societal advantage — it's starting to become necessary to avoid splitting ends and coming to blows.

Certainly there are problems with this measuring scale. Bald people, for instance, completely throw hairomancy into a tailspin. But it's a skill that's worth perfecting, and until we move away from an appearance-centered society, it's going to continue to be vital to defusing social situations.

So my final words to you are to head out into the world this summer, free from the bonds of education, and realize that you can be the queen or king of anything you so desire. Just keep an appraising eye on each person's headlining features, and you should do fine. Remember, words and actions might be untrue, but hair never lies.

## CAMPUS RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCIL 2010/2011

The Committee is charged with the responsibility to: 1) serve as an advisory group for all Campus Recreation programs and services; 2) advise the Campus Recreation staff on proposed changes in the interpretation of rules and policies governing specific recreational sports programs; 3) advise the Campus Recreation staff on needed and/or proposed additions/improvements to recreational programs; 4) advise and recommend the appropriate action to be taken on all decisions appealed to the Committee from the Director of Campus Recreation; 5) perform other duties as suggested by the Director of Campus Recreation. All regularly enrolled University of Alberta students (taking a minimum of one credit hour, provided they have paid the Athletic and Recreation Non-Instructional Fee) are eligible for election/appointment.

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# ARTS AND CULTURAL MANAGEMENT

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# FIGHTING THE

Photography by  
Dan McKechnie

**A**fter 12 weeks of hitting the gym, skipping the cookies, and blogging about the successes and failures of the past three months, Team Freshman 15 has come up a whopping collective 62 lb lighter than they were in January. The challenge began in the wake of Christmas cookies and

extra helpings of turkey, continued through midterm and paper season, and is now wrapping up as finals loom. Not everyone managed to shed 15 pounds, but on the whole, everyone's emerging with better habits and a greater appreciation for the fight for fitness.

## Danielle Jenson

Starting Weight: 165 lbs.  
Current Weight: 160 lbs.  
Total Loss: 5 lbs.

My final weigh-in today was 160 lbs. I didn't reach my original goal; however, I believe that because it was a slow loss, I'll be able to continue losing weight, and more importantly, keep the weight off.

Through the last 12 weeks, I was able to get my eating habits into order, but the rest of my life remained unchanged. I found that if you really want to get into a constant exercise plan, you must not be behind in any of your classes and other obligations. It was impossible to get to the gym in the couple weeks before midterms because I was so far behind in reading that I was spending every day in the library panicking. Perhaps getting some exercise would have helped with my concentration and stress levels, but there always seemed to be something better to do in the evenings. Once midterms arrived, suddenly everything else did too and my gym routine disappeared completely. Most of March was exercise-free, but my diet adjusted naturally with that. During the time I wasn't exercising, I wasn't as hungry either. In the end, I ate a lot less than normal, therefore I continued to lose weight.

I wasn't able to completely balance my life with an increase of exercise, but I succeeded in making my eating habits healthier. I now eat more nutritious foods and balance the food group servings a lot better.

I've accomplished the first step, and perhaps in the next 12 weeks I'll find the time for more physical activity and get closer to reaching my goal.

## Sarah Stead

Starting Weight: 149 lbs.  
Current Weight: 145 lbs.  
Total Loss: 4 lbs.

The biggest mistake I made during these past 12 weeks was keeping a scale under my desk at work. I stepped on it every morning I was in the office, and the number had a huge influence on whether or not I had a good or bad day. I realized over these three months that in order for me to see any significant weight loss success, I'm going to have to take a hard look at my priorities. Whenever I had to choose between work and the gym, work always came first — as did dishes, pets, homework, and papers. So long as I continue to put myself last, my fitness isn't going to improve much.

What I've tried to do instead of berate myself for failing to reach the 15-pound mark is to celebrate some of the smaller, less tangible milestones along the way. When I started working out, I was using eight-pound weights for my arm exercises, but I'm now using 15-pound weights. During my first treadmill run, I could barely crack a 12-minute mile. Now, even with my asthma, I can comfortably run it in 9.5-minutes. The number of servings of fruits and vegetables I take in each day can no longer be counted on a single hand. They're small markers of progress, but I'm still proud of them.

Finally, I haven't given up on that cute pair of jeans that are a size too small. Work and school have kept me from them for now, but there will be a reunion some day soon.

## Dustin Blumhagen

Starting Weight: 220 lbs.  
Current Weight: 207 lbs.  
Total Loss: 13 lbs.

The wonderful world of weight loss! I'm disappointed to see that I failed to reach my goal, but this whole experience has been eye-opening. I never realized before that it was actually difficult to become healthy; I just took it for granted. When someone would whine about having a hard time, I'd shake my head in disgust, thinking, "Just get out and walk, you lazy bastard." The last four months have helped to put my naïve thinking into perspective. I honestly believed this would be a fluff assignment, something to give me a little more writing practice, but not requiring effort. I was completely wrong.

I struggled to stay on track the entire time, breaking down and indulging in fattening mochas every time the weather got slightly cold. I spent more time walking out of my way to avoid the gym than actually working out. For every healthy meal I would eat, there was a greasy pizza to counteract it. Granted, I did see mild success, but it was far less than I had

expected. When I first began to work out, I was astonished to find out how bad of shape I was in. It never really got any easier, and I still struggle for breath after tackling the treadmill. In the end, this whole assignment enlightened me to how far I have strayed from the healthy lifestyle that I immersed myself in during my teens.

I'm compassionate to the struggles of others now, and also thankful that I was blessed with a decent metabolism. With my terrible habits, I would be a prime candidate for making the six o'clock news when a crane had to lift me from my apartment. Now that I'm aware and have begun to build a better routine, I think that I'll be able to continue, one small step at a time. I'm interested to see where all of my fellow participants are in September. Maybe the summer will make being active easier, but maybe it will allow for more listless hours spent reading on the beach. I hope that I continue to become healthier. This is my life and I'm the only one responsible for it.





# FRESHMAN 15

**Mike Kendrick**

Starting weight: 220 lbs.  
Current weight: 194 lbs.  
Total loss: 26 lbs.

Well, this has been a pleasant surprise.

When we started this competition, I joked to everyone that I would end up as the feature's comic relief. Coming out 26 lbs. lighter is the best I could have hoped for, despite that possibility having not even entering my mind.

The early gains — or losses, as it were — made within the first few weeks provided the push I needed to keep the momentum up, and having my fellow competitors egg me on when I got lazy has been huge. But I can't give all the credit to my peers, of course. Fighting the Freshman 15 has been as much a personal accomplishment, achieved through a combination of breaking bad habits and picking up better ones. Daunting as it may seem, changing your diet in order to lose weight isn't all that difficult. Cutting portion sizes down, substituting fried side dishes for salads, and supplementing my daily diet with filling, not fattening, snacks have all been instrumental factors in my success, but none of these are radical overhauls to my usual eating habits.

Getting active seemed like it would be even more difficult to work into my busy schedule, but it's surprisingly easy to sneak activity into daily life.

Apart from three trips to the gym each week, it's the simple little things that have helped. Taking stairs instead of elevators, walking instead of driving, and claiming an old exercise bike from my parents' basement — as long as I've been able to occupy myself with a book or an iPod while doing these things, I've been able to keep them enjoyable.

Most importantly, however, has been the mental element. It's echoed all the time that getting in shape is as much psychological as it is physical, and it's certainly true. It's been a stressful semester, and the days where I've had a negative outlook have proven to be the toughest to stay active, allowing my weight to creep back up. But conversely, it's been those tangible payoffs that have kept me in the game. The scale has dropped on more days than it's increased, and I've started to feel like a pregnant woman in reverse, tracking the gradual downsizing of my pot belly.

Of course, now that I've had to buy a new wardrobe to keep up with my new look, my wallet is feeling a bit lighter too. I guess that's a small price to pay for being in even better shape now than when I started university. Banana hammock season, here I come!

**Julianna Damer**

Starting Weight: 152 lbs.  
Current Weight: 152 lbs.  
Total Loss: 0 lbs.

With the challenge coming to a close, I look back on the past few months with pride and sheepishness. I'm extremely proud of myself for maintaining a healthy weight of around 152 pounds through most of the feature. The most exciting part of the whole process was when I managed to reach 147 after coming back from a trip to Vancouver, because it showed me that the simple recipe to losing weight is eating healthy and being active.

Unfortunately, school got a hold of me the following month. As the time remaining in the semester dwindled, so did my energy and motivation to keep fit. My version of the "no pain, no gain" regimen — where I don't care and don't gain — didn't work very well at keeping the scale down. In fact, no pain in the gym *did* bring a gain — around my waist. I know that my gain isn't that significant, and I do plan on working hard this week to get back into an exercise routine.

That being said, as soon as the semester is over, I vow to build a stable workout routine that I will keep throughout the summer months. I didn't lose 15 pounds during this feature, but I have four relaxing months ahead of me that can be used to reach that goal.

I have felt what it was like to be fit and healthy, and I can assure you it felt great. I encourage anyone, even those who don't need to lose any weight, to eat healthily and exercise regularly — even if it's just a matter of walking more — and get restful sleep. Your body will thank you.

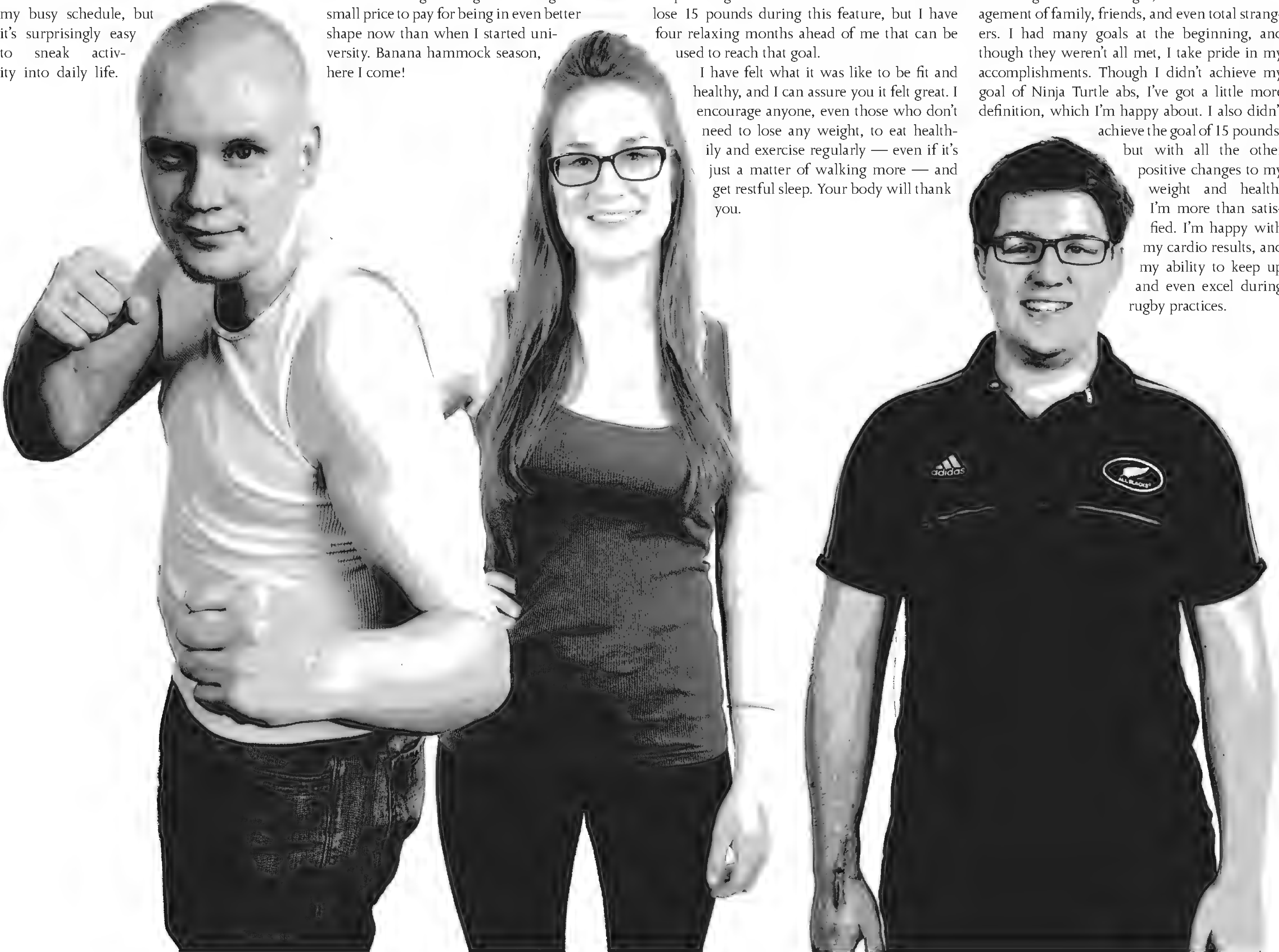
**Robert Frigon**

Starting Weight: 209 lbs.  
Current Weight: 195 lbs.  
Total Loss: 14 lbs.

Twelve weeks seems like a whole lot of time, but it goes by quickly, especially if you don't see your weight falling at the pace it needs to to achieve your goals. I had a strong first month, but started to lag in the second month as I fell into too much of a routine. The secret to my success in the first month was cutting calories in my food intake. My exercise helped, but really lagged in intensity due to my reduced caloric intake.

Luckily for me, rugby started in the last third of the program and kicked me out of my habits. Now that I'm practicing three times a week and doing a lot of contact drills, my weight has gone into freefall. I've trimmed close to six pounds in little over a month. During my struggle for weight loss over these last three months, I faced many challenges while trying to lose the Freshman 15. My wrist scar from a past surgery remained cracked and open, which stopped me from competing in the sprint triathlon last week due to sanitary rules of the pool. I've also had some difficulties with my knees hindering my cardio sessions.

Through these challenges, I've had the encouragement of family, friends, and even total strangers. I had many goals at the beginning, and though they weren't all met, I take pride in my accomplishments. Though I didn't achieve my goal of Ninja Turtle abs, I've got a little more definition, which I'm happy about. I also didn't achieve the goal of 15 pounds, but with all the other positive changes to my weight and health, I'm more than satisfied. I'm happy with my cardio results, and my ability to keep up and even excel during rugby practices.





social  
intercourse**Greg MacPherson**

With *Audio/Rocketry* and *Kris Glabush*  
Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m.  
Haven Social Club (15120 Stony Plain Rd.)  
\$10 at the door, Megatunes, and Backbyrd

Regardless of what genre of music you listen to, you're probably familiar with names like Springsteen, Cash, Strummer, Dylan, and Young. But for every one of them, there are a thousand songwriters like Greg MacPherson who never make it, despite doing everything right. The upside of their misfortune is that you have the opportunity to experience their music in its full glory. Take a listen to Cash's *American Recordings* or Springsteen's *Devils and Dust* to see where their vision is fully realized. Instead of doling out a couple hundred dollars to see them in a tin-can venue like Rexall, why not check out a true artist in a smaller venue that actually works with his sound?

**Ramblin Ambassadors**

With *Rich Hope* and *The Benders*  
Saturday, April 3 at 9 p.m.  
Brixx Bar & Grill (10030-102 St.)  
\$12 at the door

Formed from the ashes of the popular Calgary surf band Huevos Rancheros, these guys continue to play country-tinged instrumental music with a dash of Ennio Morricone. These performers will make you forget that they don't have any words. I can only assume that film director Quentin Tarantino will be tapping them for his next soundtrack.

**Michael Franti and Spearhead**

With *John Mayer*  
Sunday, April 4 at 8 p.m.  
Rexa Place (1424-118 Ave.)  
Tickets from \$41-86 at Ticketmaster

Traditionally, political music falls into one of two categories: upbeat folk or cynical punk. Taking a page from the late Bob Marley, Franti preaches his gospel of love to the warm beats of reggae, ska, and world music. Where Marley became a poster boy for marijuana use, Franti has become one of the most popular advocates for the positive benefits of yoga. His affinity for walking barefoot inspired me to take it up last summer, although I admit that I'm not "at one" enough to continue that throughout the Alberta winter. So whip up some baby dreads and pull on your hemp shirt, brothers and sisters, because the "Rude Boy's Back In Town."

**Say Anything**

With *Angels & Airwaves*  
Sunday, April 11 at 7 p.m.  
Edmonton Event Centre (8882-170 St.)  
\$32.50 at Ticketmaster

Max Bemis is one of those rare characters that you can't help loving and hating with equal fervour. His struggles with mental illness have plagued Say Anything, but also helped build the character of the oddball frontman. He's also likely the only man alive who has collaborated with more artists than Timbaland, which backs up his loveable side. If you see him, you will want to hug him — I cannot stress this enough. Just don't be surprised if he's having an "off" day and bodyslams you into the concrete. But suck it up and forgive him — after all, he was cool enough to name his band after a legendary John Cusack film.

**Big John Bates & the Voodoo Dollz**

With *Meanstreak* and *Grave Mistakes*  
Thursday, April 15 at 8 p.m.  
New City Suburbs (10081 Jasper Ave.)

Likely one of the most entertaining bands you have never seen, B.B. play stomping rockabilly-influenced blues, complete with an eye-catching burlesque show. Guaranteed to get the most cynical hipster dancing, this touring carnival has owned the underground with their superb live sets for years.

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN  
That's all, folks!



# Distilling the message from the noise

## musicpreview

**The Dillinger Escape Plan**

With *Darkest Hour and Animals as Leaders*  
Wednesday, April 7 at 7 p.m.  
Starlite Room (10030-102 St.)  
\$22 at Blackbyrd, Unionevents.com, and Ticketmaster

JOHN KMECH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The Dillinger Escape Plan loves Bill O'Reilly. The conservative pundit seems like an odd source of inspiration for one of the pioneering groups of mathcore, a brand of metal built on intricate musicality and precisely organized chaos. But the phrase that the firebrand screamed at a producer during a famous flip-out — do it live! — was co-opted by the group, as it perfectly encapsulates DEP's uncompromising ethos and famously insane stage performances. It's just a shame that, on their recent appearance on Fox News' "The Strategy Room," the band didn't get a chance to see their hero and thank him properly.

"I wish I would have [seen him], because I would have shouted 'Do it live!' at him constantly until they escorted us from the building," says Greg Puciato, the group's vocalist, with a smirk. "I love that guy — he's like a spectacle to me. People talk about how much they hate him, but I actually think he's fascinating, because he's such a psychopath that it's interesting to me to watch that guy. He's like the rock star of Fox News."

"I'm fascinated by people who are on an extreme of either spectrum," continues Puciato. "Whenever you're in a state of complete chaos — which it seems like people think that they're in right now — people find comfort in absolutes. So when someone's screaming really loudly at one end of the spectrum, it's very convincing to people, to give them comfort [...] Intrinsically, I disagree with people like him or Glenn Beck, or on the flip side, I can't stand Ann Coulter or Michael Moore. But they're interesting to observe; the fact that they're so popular is itself

a commentary on the state of the people who are buying these books or watching these shows."

Screaming really loudly from one end of the spectrum makes for an enticing parallel with Dillinger's work. However, Puciato admits that in recent years, the band has "started to find a middle ground where we can do different extremes," as compared to the highly technical onslaught of calculated anarchy of their earlier years. This more balanced approach has never been more evident than on their latest album, *Option Paralysis*.

**"People talk about how much they hate [Bill O'Reilly], but I actually think he's fascinating, because he's such a psychopath that it's interesting to me."**

GREG PUCIATO  
VOCALIST, DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN

The name is based on an expression that states when a person is given infinite options, they will typically refuse to choose one. Puciato explains that the band came up with the album's central idea prior to writing any lyrics or music, and structured the songs around the theme, though he's quick to point out that he doesn't see it as a concept record. While he says the message he's preaching is definitely not anti-technology, the singer believes that 20th Century advances have left confused *Homo sapiens* searching for ways to belong within uncharted digital frontiers.

"I think the issue is that we've made such a giant leap over the last hundred years technologically, which is amazing, but it's obvious that human beings as a culture have not adapted to these things as fast as they're being invented. The growth of technology is exponential — it's out of control. People are starting to find themselves [with] higher levels of depression and anxiety, and are feeling disconnected. I think that people are starting to lose track of what the root of the human experience is, which is still based around the five senses that we're

biologically given. It's just a matter of not being able to distill the message from the noise, when there's so much white noise going on.

"When you're five years old and you have the option to eat whatever you want, you'd choose to eat ice cream and cookies for every single meal," Puciato adds, laughing. "You would never understand why that would be bad for you in a larger spectrum — you can only see immediately what your taste buds would see. Right now, there's excess everywhere. There's that ability to have whatever you want whenever you want it, and immediacy whenever you want it. [There's] zero privacy, and a technological and marketing bombardment wherever you go. So I think it's creating a situation where people are losing focus of the bigger picture."

In a world with bellowing political pundits, 24 hour news cycles, and technology evolving exponentially faster than the human race, no one seems immune to information overload. At a time when his band is in its most stable iteration yet, after an astounding number of lineup changes, Puciato admits that his own life currently connects with their record's thematic content in an intimate way.

"In terms of option paralysis, it personally resonates with me because I'm going through a transition with everything in [my] life right now. I'm about to turn 30, we have a new record coming out, it's a new decade, there's interpersonal relationships I've had that have come and gone over the last year, and I've been faced with some choices as an individual. You think to yourself, 'Fuck, I wish I had a crystal ball that I could ask 'if I pick A, where's it going to go, or if I take B, where's it going to go?' But you never do, so you've just got to be like, 'Fuck, I've got to do something and kind of make the best of it.'"

While he sees the symptom both privately and across society, Puciato believes that the cure will work itself out in time, even if the white noise remains pervasive.

"I think people will get it — I don't see it as a crisis situation. I think that they'll find a balance. They'll realize that something's missing. Option paralysis is more of an observation than a rallying cry. [But] you see it everywhere."



# It's time to forget about Dre and remember Chocclair



NICK FROST

Last night, I had a rather worrisome dream — one so vivid and devastating that it's almost an insurmountable task for me just to talk about, but one that I feel I could help everyone gain some much-needed perspective.

As I tossed and turned restlessly in bed, I imagined that I was sitting on a park bench in Scarborough, Ont. on a sunny afternoon, one hand protectively clasp[ing] an 8x10 glossy portrait of Kareem Blake — the legend otherwise known as Toronto rapper Chocclair — and the other holding an iPod playing his most-beloved track “Let’s Ride.” Waiting for the Suave Dawg himself to arrive, I saw a black E-Class Mercedes Benz slowly pull up. Thinking that he might be in it, I approached the vehicle. Thunder clapped loudly above me, and a contemptuous behemoth of a man rose out of the car, looked down upon me, and bellowed, “there is no Chocclair!” Petrified, I looked down at my hands, and the iPod and glossy portrait had transformed into tiny gremlins that were attempting to gnaw my thumbs off.

Springing up out of my bed in a panicked cold sweat, I furiously lunged for the iPod lying on my side table, scrolled down my artists list to “Chocclair,” and breathed a massive sigh of relief.

Now, I’m no psychoanalyst when

it comes to interpreting dreams, but I believe that this nightmare is indicative of an even greater problem that not just I, but Canada as a whole is afflicted by — we’ve taken Chocclair for granted.

And there’s a simple explanation for all of this. Back in 1999, citizens of the world became afflicted by a global epidemic wherein motherfuckers acted like they forgot about Dr. Dre. Upon the release of Dre’s *Chronic 2001*, people started banding together in a more concerted effort towards remembering him, lest they be choked to death with a Charleston Chew. It was in the midst of this process of remembering Dre, however, that these same motherfuckers began to *actually* forget about Chocclair.

**Nowadays, people are talking about “every day I’m hustling” this and “I make it rain on these hos” that, and it’s absolutely disgraceful.**

Sure, it’s been nearly a decade since the Chiznock has released an album or a single that has attained any significant position on the Canadian charts. And he’s been mostly out of the spotlight since “Let’s Ride” blew up *MuchMusic Countdown* and left all the other musical plebeians smouldering in its wake. But since that magical summer in 1999 when Mr. Blake first began imparting his wisdom on us, it seems that the lessons he taught have since been pushed to the wayside.

Think about it: Chocclair, along with

the world’s greatest hype man Saukrates riding sidecar, are single-handedly responsible for teaching an entire generation of Canadian youth how to “ride,” regardless of whether it involves getting clean, getting dirty, or going left or right. Up until that point, no one even knew what “ride” was, but Chocclair heroically informed the masses that as long as they were feeling the vibe, they may one day have what it takes to ride.

When “Rubbin’” came out soon after, the duo engaged in an earnest, meaningful discussion about sex, picking up the slack when many Canadian parents were too embarrassed to talk about it. Remember kids — “if he/she with it, then shit, you gotta hit it.” Following that up with “Skyline” in 2002, Chocclair formulated an anthem for the downtrodden, preaching that if they aimed high with their aspirations, any adversity could be overcome.

Nowadays, people are talking about “every day I’m hustling” this and “I make it rain on these hos” that, and it’s absolutely disgraceful. Here, we have one of Canada’s finest rappers providing a discourse for people of all colours, creeds, and ages to become involved in, and instead we choose our life lessons from an inferior product.

I would implore everyone to use that Jeezy album you recently purchased as a frisbee or a coaster, and stop letting Chocclair’s music suffer extinction in hip-hop’s evolutionary chain. Go out and study his entire musical library, and if you can’t appreciate it for the nostalgic value, then enjoy it for its catchy beats and superb teachings. Chocclair, you will be underappreciated no more!

Now if you’ll excuse me, I’m feeling the vibe. I think I’m gonna go ride.



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# Surgeon cuts open details on Iraq

## bookreview

### Coppola: A Pediatric Surgeon in Iraq

Written by Dr. Chris Coppola  
Published by NTI Upstream

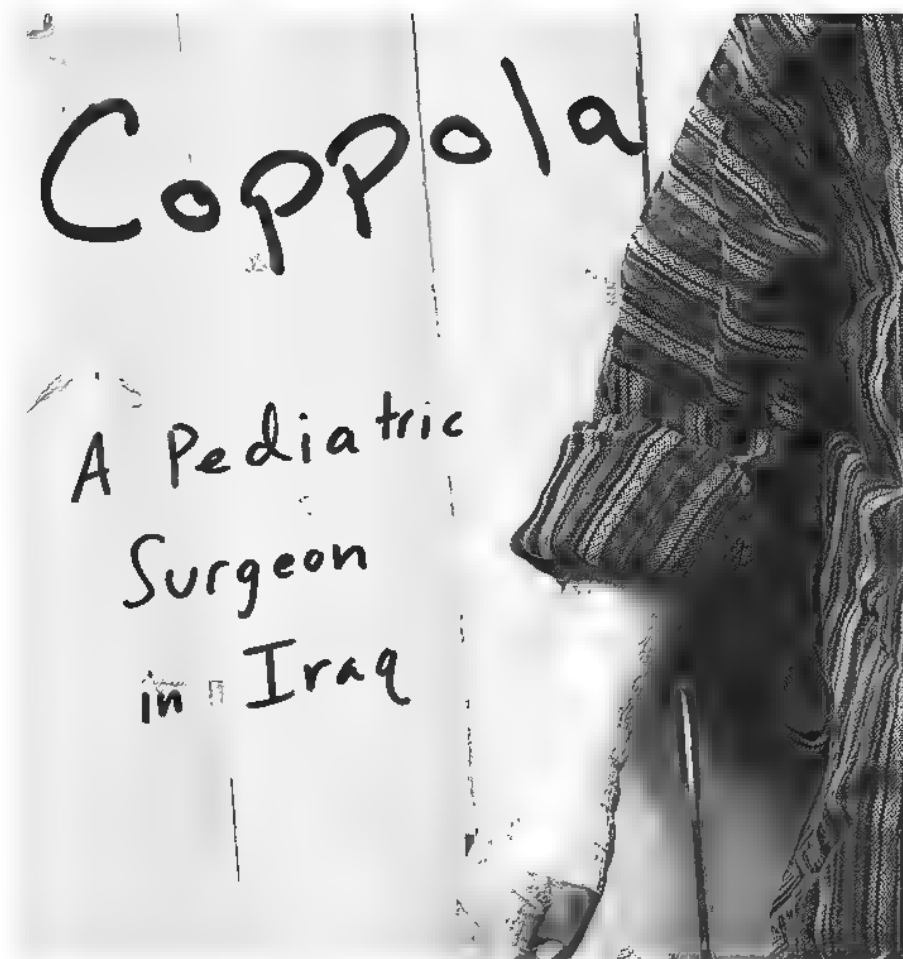
STEPHANIE REEVES  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The majority of North Americans are aware of the ongoing war in Iraq, but few care to inquire into what's *really* happening, especially to the citizens of the nation. Dr. Chris Coppola wrote his memoir, *Coppola: A Pediatric Surgeon in Iraq*, to provide his personal experiences as a military doctor through two tours in Iraq, and the appalling reality of what civilians and children are forced to deal with on a daily basis.

Coppola shows a different perspective on the war. We're used to hearing about the soldiers themselves, but we don't often hear from other viewpoints, like doctors, on what occurs in the war zone. Civilians are fairly prominent victims in this memoir and it's most likely an accurate reflection of daily life for citizens of Iraq. Many of the children there are greatly affected by insurgent attacks on civilians and the grave reality is that many do not survive. With the standard of living depleted from war and the lack of accessible medical facilities, many Iraqi victims have to seek medical attention at American military hospitals.

Coppola says, "The Muslims I meet every day at the hospital are just like me — more concerned about the health and happiness of their families than any holy war. It troubles me that the weakest and most defenceless children always seem to get the raw end of the deal in Iraq," writes Coppola.

Being a pediatric surgeon by trade, Coppola deals with children on a regular basis. He's challenged continually in this new environment, by the lack of resources, language, cultural barriers, and a staff inexperienced in dealing with children. His persistent attachment to some of his



patients he described tugs at the heartstrings and, for a moment, gives you a small taste of what the citizens face.

During Coppola's break between tours, he tries to go back to his life before the war, returning to his wife Meredith and their three children. He soon realizes that his experiences have changed him. "Nothing has changed, except maybe me." It's interesting to read the contrasts he makes between his life in America and in Iraq.

However, in the latter half of the book, during his second tour, the sombre tone still remains. It feels as if Coppola is in a state of repetition. Although there are new patients and new issues to deal with, the same challenges begin to repeat themselves.

The book flashes back to his experiences as a medical student and his life before the war to serve. Yet confusion continues to exist. Given the general sequential order of his time as a military doctor, this section seems somewhat out of place.

By the end of this memoir, the reader should have a fairly good sense of a recent account of the ill-fated casualties of war. Dr. Coppola offers compelling stories of his personal experiences. Unfortunately, this is just another personal account of war that is read, empathized with, and left to collect dust on a shelf.

## FLOP CULTURE

One of my earliest childhood memories comes from a particular evening when my parents rented a film called *Baby Geniuses* for me and my brother to watch. This was also the evening my faith in humanity was irrevocably shaken.

Now 20th Century Fox is trying to kill what little empathy I have left for society by adapting a series of popular-yet-awful E-Trade commercials, which also feature babies of the talking variety, into a feature film. This time, however, these toddlers aren't super-intelligent, but are, in fact, hipster douche bags.

For anyone who hasn't had the distinct horror of watching one of these commercials, it's basically babies sitting at their respective computers, exchanging nonsensical dialog while making explicit references to important infant issues like financial portfolios and 401ks. Seriously, they're horrible, even within the talking-babies genre.

I'm sure many of my contemporaries will remember from a few years ago when ABC tried to pull a similar ploy, adapting a series of Geico commercials containing unusually articulate neanderthals into an equally unfunny sitcom. *Cavemen* was mercifully only on the air for six episodes, because who could have foreseen that stretching out 30-second, barely amusing-commercials into 22-minute vignettes might not yield the best results? Now Fox thinks they can succeed where ABC failed, only with worse material and a longer runtime.

But, who knows? Maybe the film might turn out to be a modern classic. As it stands, the two *Baby Geniuses* films have Metacritic scores of six and nine out of a possible 100, so, at the very least, there's room for improvement.

EVAN MUDRYK

*Flop Culture* is a semi-regular feature in which Gateway pop culture pundits shake their literary fists at ridiculous events or celebrities deserving of an inky bitch-slap.



## albumreview

### Birds of Wales

*Belgravia Hotel*  
Sparks/EMI

GRANT CRAWFORD  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

I should be careful about what I say about Birds of Wales' new album, *Belgravia Hotel*. After all, it's immediately and thoroughly obvious that these are very sensitive lads. In fairness, I should probably mention that I'm neither emo nor a high school girl, so I don't fall within their target audience. But to all the good people of the world who may, for some reason, feel tempted to buy this album on a whim, I would strongly recommend against it.

There's the standard ode to naïveté ("Philanthropist"), two songs about growing up

a little faster than you'd anticipated ("Life," "Some People Tell Me"), and even one about being a puppet to big media ("Fall of the 49"). However, pretty much every other song here is a saccharine love song or a melodramatic tale of a broken heart. Their story arc sounds something

like this: when you were young, you were optimistic; you fell in and out of love a few times; realized you're a slave to the media; and now you're old and pessimistic. The last song on the album is probably supposed to be the most touching love song of them all. Don't be too down though, there is hope yet.

So if these sound like your problems, this band will speak to you. But if a song title like "Winter Reminds Me of You" raises the alarm bells, you probably think like me — thank God it's spring, because I don't want anything to remind me of this band ever again.

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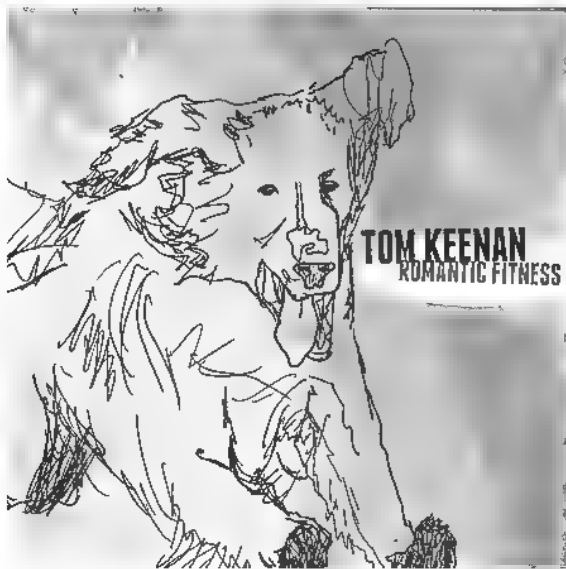




**Patrick Keenan**  
*Washed Out Roads*  
SOCAN

VS

**Tom Keenan**  
*Romantic Fitness*  
SOCAN



DAVID JOHNSTON  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The plan: pick two albums and pit them against each other in a gruesome deathmatch until a victor emerges. There can be only one!

**Special Sibling Edition**

**The Hook**

**Patrick:** Winnipeg singer/songwriter takes a break from *Captain Keenan* to release solo album.

**Tom:** Winnipeg singer/songwriter takes a break from *Captain Keenan* to release solo album.

**Advantage:** You're kidding me, right?

**Song Most Likely Recorded Under The Influence**

**Patrick:** The Superman references in "Lois" are just blatant enough to be clever, but Patrick's languid drawl throughout is reminiscent of being stoned on something harder than Kryptonite.

**Tom:** "I Don't Want To Lie Down" kicks off with a story of getting beat up at a wedding and segues through several equally cheery scenarios, all performed while Tom is crooning with an intensity that suggests he's nearing the bottom of a two-six of vodka.

**Advantage:** Patrick. Approximately half of "Lois" is sung by what sounds like a soprano opera singer located four blocks away, making it just cheeky enough to edge out Tom's litany of injuries. I'm entertaining the notion that Patrick may have written and recorded the entire album while on drugs and

the chorus of "Tobacco" supports this theory.

**Best Use of Titular Metaphor**

**Patrick:** Dead-end roads come up multiple times throughout the record. They turn up in the strangest places, often in the middle of lyrics, which gives it a not-entirely-unlikeable stop/start feel.

**Tom:** Much more accurate here, *Romantic Fitness* actually feels like a workout for the heart, shooting things off with the high-cardio "100 Hours" and "Please Don't Think Less Of Me" before winding down with the cautious "Run Out Of Money" and "Lullaby."

**Advantage:** Tom. Turns out I'd rather build emotional muscle mass than constantly find myself at dead-end drives. Who knew?

**Lyric You Least Expected To Hear**

**Patrick:** "The roof rack on your car made me think that you were the cops without your lights on." Evidence for my theory is growing.

**Tom:** "I walk to the library, pretend to read / they won't let me use the Internet anymore / 'cause I'll look at porn." Yet somehow, "Run Out Of Money" presents a strong contender for most emotional track on the record.

**Advantage:** Tom tempers this entry with a two-and-a-half-minute instrumental that suggests a faith in his musical convictions that his sibling occasionally lacks. The weirdness of both guys' lyrics is a little unmatched, so the melodic counterpoints are enough to tip the scales.

**Best Walking Music**

**Patrick:** "Cloud Formation" reminds me of the theme from *The Office*, and I mean that in a good way — there's such a little strut to the piece that it demands an elaborate sidewalk dance be choreographed around it.

**Tom:** The way "Bomb Song" explodes with joy and awesomeness at precisely the one-minute mark can't be an accident; it's easily the best track on a fantastic album.

**Advantage:** I do really like "Cloud Formation," but "Bomb Song" is the one tune from either record that can sustain me for a half-hour jaunt across town. Ironically, it's the only one Tom didn't write, except for "With Heigh," whose lyrics, amusingly, are from a Shakespeare sonnet. This earns him some bonus points immediately.

**Cover Art**

**Patrick:** Cyborg beaver! Also, cyborg unicorn.

**Tom:** Sketchy puppy!

**Advantage:** You're kidding me, right?

**Verdict**

*Romantic Fitness* pretty handily comes out on top, given its more stylized sound, more clever structuring, and stronger emotional core. Hopefully, this will lead to some really awkward family Christmas dinners. "Please pass the green beans." "Oh, gee, so now you need a Polaris Prize, two platinum albums, and my green beans? Go to hell, Tom." Personally, I can't wait.

While the musicianship is tight, it's Hall's voice that really stands out, every syllable heavy with emotion. Hall carries a lot of weight when she belts out the bolder notes, but you still feel it when she's more subdued. It's always nice to hear someone sing something that they really mean, and her lyrics definitely come across as sincere.

*The New Fabulous* explores the common themes of love, lust, and loss. But it's Hall's powerful, varied delivery that makes these old avenues interesting. Even if she's singing about something totally foreign, she does it with such conviction that it seems familiar. This album has a smooth, soulful jazzy sound that's easy to listen to, and will make you want to play it over and over again.

The opening track, "Odessa," exemplifies most of the positive qualities of the record: cool beats, reverb-soaked vocals, and frantic bursts of percussion mix to create one of the best songs I've heard all year. "Bowls" is a purely instrumental track which bounces around on various effects. Snaith's ability to create dense and fluid songs using minimal effects is impressive. It should be easy even for those who aren't fans of the genre to appreciate the quality of this album; you don't even have to swim, you can just roll with the tide. Dense and multi-layered don't always have to mean inaccessible, and *Swim* is the perfect testament to that fact.



**albumreview**  
**Tiff Hall**  
*The New Fabulous*  
Independent

VONN GONDZIOLA  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Tiff Hall's first offering, *The New Fabulous*, is a journey, with each song adding its own pin to the sonic map. Hall transitions from upbeat to melancholy with "Sweet Sweet Lovin'," followed by "Happily Ever After," right off the demonstrating showing that she's got range, depth, and soul. It's a deadly combination that will keep you yearning for more.

Hall got her start playing at a dueling piano bar, and this is exactly the type of atmosphere her music creates. It's easy to imagine yourself sitting in a lounge, nursing a drink with her on stage playing her piano, as her music permeates the room. Like the piano man Billy Joel sings, Hall provides music that will take you away and allow you to forget about life for a while.



**albumreview**  
**Caribou**  
*Swim*  
Merge Records

GRANT CRAWFORD  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Never do the same thing twice; always keep moving forward. That's the motto of Dan Snaith, a.k.a. Caribou, who changes his sound with every album he produces. *Swim* finds Snaith naturally progressing into an album of stoned-out dance influences. The music is vibrant, yet

cool at the same time. You can dance to it if you feel up to it, but it's fine for just sitting back too. It's music made by one guy on a laptop, but it doesn't sound too synthetic or disconnected. Instead, it sounds very organic, naturally flowing from track to track with ease and confidence.



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**Diana Gibson, Parkland Institute**

Description: What has the boom and bust cycle meant for Albertans? How have local independent businesses fared? What are the alternatives? Norway weathered the recession far better than Alberta though it has a major portion of its economy driven by oil and gas. What can Alberta learn from Norway's experience?





# The Flatliners accept Australia's friend request with tour and new album

## musicpreview

### The Flatliners

With *Broadway Calls and Cobra Skulls*  
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The Pawn Shop (10551-82 Ave.)  
\$10 advance at Blackbyrd and Megatunes  
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BEN SIR  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Flatliners are homeless. Well, almost.

"We live in a van," drummer Paul Ramirez tells me as singer Chris Cresswell folds his laundry nearby.

Ramirez, Cresswell, and the rest of The Flatliners have clocked as many miles touring as bands that were playing before they were born. The band has spent 31 of the last 37 months on tour, most recently completing their first jaunt across Australia.

"We've had kids emailing and MySpacing us about playing there for a couple years. It finally worked out," Ramirez enthusiastically explains. "We hope to get back there within the next 12 months. We got some tans, swam in the ocean, and saw some big waves. Or, at least what we thought were big waves. They pounded the shit out of us."

The band spent three days off on The Gold Coast at a beach called Surfer's Paradise, which is not exactly the worst place to be homeless. However, Australia will have to vie with a multitude of other countries for the band's return, as The Flatliners kick off yet another extensive touring cycle that takes them up the west coast and across Canada, before heading to Europe, and back to North America for The Warped Tour.

These upcoming tours will ring in the release of their third full-length album, *Cavalcade*. The record is a blend of their heaviest and most melodic tracks to date. It's built upon the album's title, and lyrical content that tackles the



disconnected feeling that a wandering and displaced lifestyle creates. Nevertheless, the band has plenty to be optimistic about.

"I really think it's our strongest effort to date," Ramirez states. "It really shows what we're capable of, musically."

Despite being globally represented by punk heavyweight label, Fat Wreck Chords, the band created their own label alongside the new record. *Cavalcade* will be released internationally by Fat Wreck, while the new imprint, Drive Entertainment, will handle its Canadian release.

"We wanted to own and distribute our own property in our own country," the drummer explains.

And, most importantly to Ramirez, spearheading the album's distribution will allow them to keep the record "cheap as balls."

"If we make the product for next to nothing, then hopefully kids can buy it for next to nothing," he says.

The Pawn Shop will provide new scenery in a familiar city for the band. They've played Edmonton five times in the last three years, most

recently opening for The Dropkick Murphys in November.

"We just want to pump the album," Ramirez says, "with all the touring we've done, and the connections we've made, I think people are excited."

Despite any uncertainty that may accompany the unfamiliar task of releasing the album themselves, Ramirez admits, "it was a bit of an investment, but I think it's going to work out. We have so many tours lined up, and the records coming out. It's going to be a fun year."

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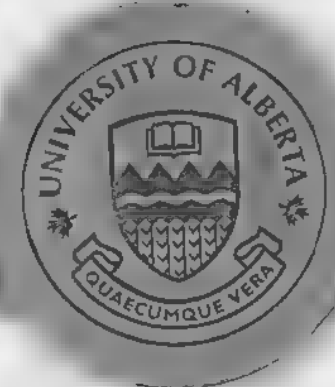
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## Puck Pandas, Klassen take top honours in this year's Gateway Varsity Sports Awards

Women's hockey leads the way winning three categories, and CW MVP Klassen is athlete of the year

The 2009/10 varsity sports season may be over, but the final round of accolades has yet to be dished out — that is, until now. It's the Gateway's turn to hand out honours to some of the U of A's finest.

After watching and carefully analyzing games from September to March, the Gateway sports staff is here to give the final verdict on the year that was for the Green and Gold, bestowing praise on our varsity athletes and their coaches, and naming some of the best and worst moments for the Golden Bears and Pandas.

They kicked, caught, and scored their ways into the 2010 Varsity Sports Awards, and now we have the verdict. After spending hours debating the nine categories — actually, more like 40 minutes, but who's counting? — here are your judges:

### THE ESTEEMED JUDGING PANEL:

**Evan Daum:** After being the authority on all things hockey a year ago, this year's Sports Editor covered a little bit of everything this season. From field hockey in the fall to non-stop ice hockey coverage

in March, he's followed in the footsteps of past Gateway sports editors who have made every sport their beat in one way or another, simply out of necessity.

**Nick Frost:** As last year's Sports Editor and current Managing Editor, the man they call "Froster" has his finger on the pulse of all things U of A athletics-related. He's seen upsets, perfect seasons, Joel Schmuland's beard, and everything in between, making him a veteran of the section and a perfect candidate to assess 2009/10 in Golden Bears and Pandas sports.

**Matt Hirji:** Not only can this kid throw a mean dodgeball, but he's also next year's sports editor. Coming up big in the clutch was his calling card this year, as he picked up key assignments at crucial times, proving to be a formidable force between the baselines of the sports section.

**Nathan Liewicki:** This year's go-to guy when it came to writing week-in and week-out, Liewicki was a mainstay at the Main Gym almost every weekend covering men's and women's basketball and volleyball. He established himself as the authority on U of A hoops this season.

**Pete Yee:** Photographer extraordinaire and sports fanatic, the veteran photo editor has seen hundreds of games through the lens of his Nikon. He's an experienced member of the judging panel, who knows what it takes to win a coveted Gateway award.

### ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:

- **Chad Klassen (Golden Bears Hockey)**
- Jason Hertherington (Bears Football)
- Tarin Podloski (Pandas Hockey)

**Evan:** Klassen's a dynamic offensive player, and as soon as he's out of the lineup, you notice it immediately. He led the conference in scoring, was

Canada West MVP, made the University Cup All-Tournament Team, and was a first-team all-Canadian — the list goes on and on. Now he can add Gateway Athlete of the Year to his already impressive resumé.

**Nick:** He's a consummate leader and he's money for the Bears every time he's on the ice. Even at the end of year when he got that concussion — and really, who knows if he even should've been playing at the CIS championships — he stuck it out, came back, and helped them get to where they did.

**Matt:** I think he had a really great season. In the CIS championships, he proved that he's the most valuable player on that team by scoring two goals in the semifinal against Lakehead, and getting them into the finals.

### COACH OF THE YEAR:

- **Howie Draper (Pandas Hockey)**
- Terry Danyluk (Bears Volleyball)
- Scott Edwards (Pandas Basketball)

**Evan:** I think Draper did a tremendous job with the talent that he had by finding the right line combinations. He managed to keep that team focused and motivated from day one. Not to mention the fact that his team knocked off the undefeated McGill squad in the national final. He had a great game plan in that hockey game — they really frustrated McGill offensively, and he did a great job of planning for that one.

**Pete:** All I can think about is food right now — I'm hungry.

### ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:

- **Jordan Baker (Bears Basketball)**
- Sean Ringrose (Bears Hockey)
- Travis Yonkman (Bears Hockey)

**Nick:** Jordan Baker shows intensity like no one's business. He gets a couple of bad calls, and he'd probably be like Adam Morrison slamming the ball against his head. That kid goes out there with a ton of fury, and maybe you can chalk that up to his basketball lineage. The game runs through his veins, and he shows it. He's== going to be a stud for years to come.

**Matt:** He came into a new program, with a new coach, and he took the team and led them. He's also shown a lot of potential for growth. There's no debate here.

**Nathan:** He switched positions, too — he wasn't a guard when he was in high school, and he came here and it was like "you're going to be our starting point guard." He had to morph into that to be successful.

### TEAM OF THE YEAR:

- **Pandas Hockey**
- Bears Hockey
- Bears Volleyball

**Evan:** With a record of 27-1 during the regular season, they lost one game to UBC, and then they went through the post-season undefeated. Beating Manitoba in the conference final to avenge last year's disappointing loss to the Bisons was impressive. They went into nationals, and didn't give up a goal against McGill, who had won 86 games in a row — what more could they've done?

**Nick:** You have to credit this team up and down this year. They got it done on offence, and had arguably one of their best players, if not their best player, Stephanie Ramsay out of the lineup for a while she was training with the U-22 national team. Even in goal, we've been a little bit hard on Dana Vinge in the past. But there were a few games this year where the Pandas were tested more than we're used to seeing, and she was able to hold down the fort for the most part.

**Pete:** The most impressive part of the Pandas



**KLASSEN TOP OF THE CLASS** Bears hockey forward Chad Klassen is this year's athlete of the year after his Canada West MVP season. (Photo credits: Pete Yee, Danielle Jensen, Dan McKechnie)



hockey team this year has been their ability to deal with injuries, with all the young players stepping up. The lines were shuffled, and everybody moved around, but they still provided consistent scoring all the way through.

#### MOST OVERRATED ATHLETE:

- **Thomas Jarmoc (Bears Volleyball)**
- Ian MacDonald (Bears Hockey)
- Harvey Bradford (Bears Basketball)

**Nick:** For four years, the guy was a good player among elites, but he was relegated to the bench, because he wasn't the guy they thought he was going to be. The, being forced to step in this year as a leader, with the obvious departures of [Joel] Schmuland and [Ben] Saxton, he was allowed to get that playing time. For what it's worth, he did well, but I think some of the accolades that were dropped on him weren't warranted. He was named to Canada West as a First-Team All-Star, and to the CIS Second-Team. His numbers are comparable to Spencer Leiske, yet [Leiske] doesn't get any credit for playing a similar role.

#### MOST IMPROVED ATHLETE:

- **Dana Vinge (Pandas Hockey)**
- Jackie Trautman (Panda Field Hockey)
- Marissa Haylett (Pandas Basketball)

**Evan:** She went from our most underrated athlete a year ago, to one of the Pandas best players this season. She was used to stopping a dozen pucks last year, and coach Draper said that she was able to steal them a couple games this season — that's something she hadn't done before. Not to mention, she didn't give up a goal at nationals. When there's only one other person who has ever done that before — and that person is an Olympian — you're in elite company.

**Nick:** Especially coming from us, since we harped on her play so much last year. Whether we were unfair to her a year ago or whether it was warranted, she did it this year. She deserves a round of applause from all of us.

**Pete:** She finished her career golden.

#### MOST IMPROVED TEAM:

- **Bears Football**

- Bears and Pandas Cross-Country
- Bears and Pandas Wrestling

**Evan:** This is a weak field for potential winners. Cross-country made strides; wrestling earned a gold medal thanks to Ali Bernard. But as much as I think this team had untapped potential, Bears Football made some progress — winners by default. They went from a squad that couldn't make the playoffs a year ago, to a team that was able to knock off the number-two team in the country at the time, the Saskatchewan Huskies, and earn a post-season berth for the first time in three seasons.

**Nick:** Here's the thing about this category — there are so few teams to choose from, but I still think that it's necessary that we acknowledge someone. Bears football falls under the category of improved, because they got two more wins and made the playoffs, but it's hard to really give them credit for what they did. They were still a mediocre team.

**Matt:** The teams that were really bad last year didn't get that much better. The teams that were really good stayed up there.

#### "HOLY SHIT!" MOMENT OF THE YEAR:

- **Pandas Hockey beat Manitoba in the Conference Final**
- Bears and Dinos put the battle back into the Battle of Alberta in feisty playoff series
- Pandas volleyball upset Montreal to open nationals

**Evan:** That line brawl between the Bears and Dinos in Game 1 of the conference semis was unreal, but this honour has to go to Pandas hockey. The national championship game was the pinnacle of the season, but not in the sense that it was the most exciting game. The best game of the year for the Pandas was their thrilling overtime win over Manitoba to take the conference crown and avenge last season's loss to the Herd. There was great up-and-down action in that third period, with scoring chances at both ends and a couple of terrific saves by Dana Vinge to give the Pandas the opportunity to win in OT.

**Nick:** Can I just go with my answer from last year of [Pandas basketball's] Ashley Wigg nail-

ing a game-tying three in the final minute against Saskatchewan after being down by 15? I don't actually have a holy shit moment from this year, so I'm reverting to last year.

#### "WTF?" MOMENT OF THE YEAR:

- **Ice Bears Drop CIS Final to SMU in overtime**
- Travis Mealy's headshot puts Chad Klassen out of conference championship series
- Pandas let 14-point halftime lead slip away against Regina to lose 80-68.

**Evan:** The CIS Final was a disappointing moment for a lot of reasons. The Bears outplayed Saint Mary's for the majority of the game, and despite being down in the third, they tied it up on a great goal by Derek Ryan. When they evened the score at 2-2, I thought they were going to win it, but they didn't and it was a deflating finish to the season for Alberta. And then I got a Gatorade shower from Mike Danton in a media scrum after the game when he dumped a cooler on SMU's coach Trevor Stienberg. I will always be ripped about that game and that unwanted shower of green sugar. I'm sending him the dry cleaning bill!

**Nick:** The Bears had that one for the first 11 minutes. SMU's netminder [Neil] Conway stepped up, but the rest of Saint Mary's didn't really bring it — they brought it just enough.

**Matt:** That's heartbreaking. And to lose to Mike Danton — the guy's an ex-convict!

**Nathan:** Two words — Mike Danton. He makes it worse.



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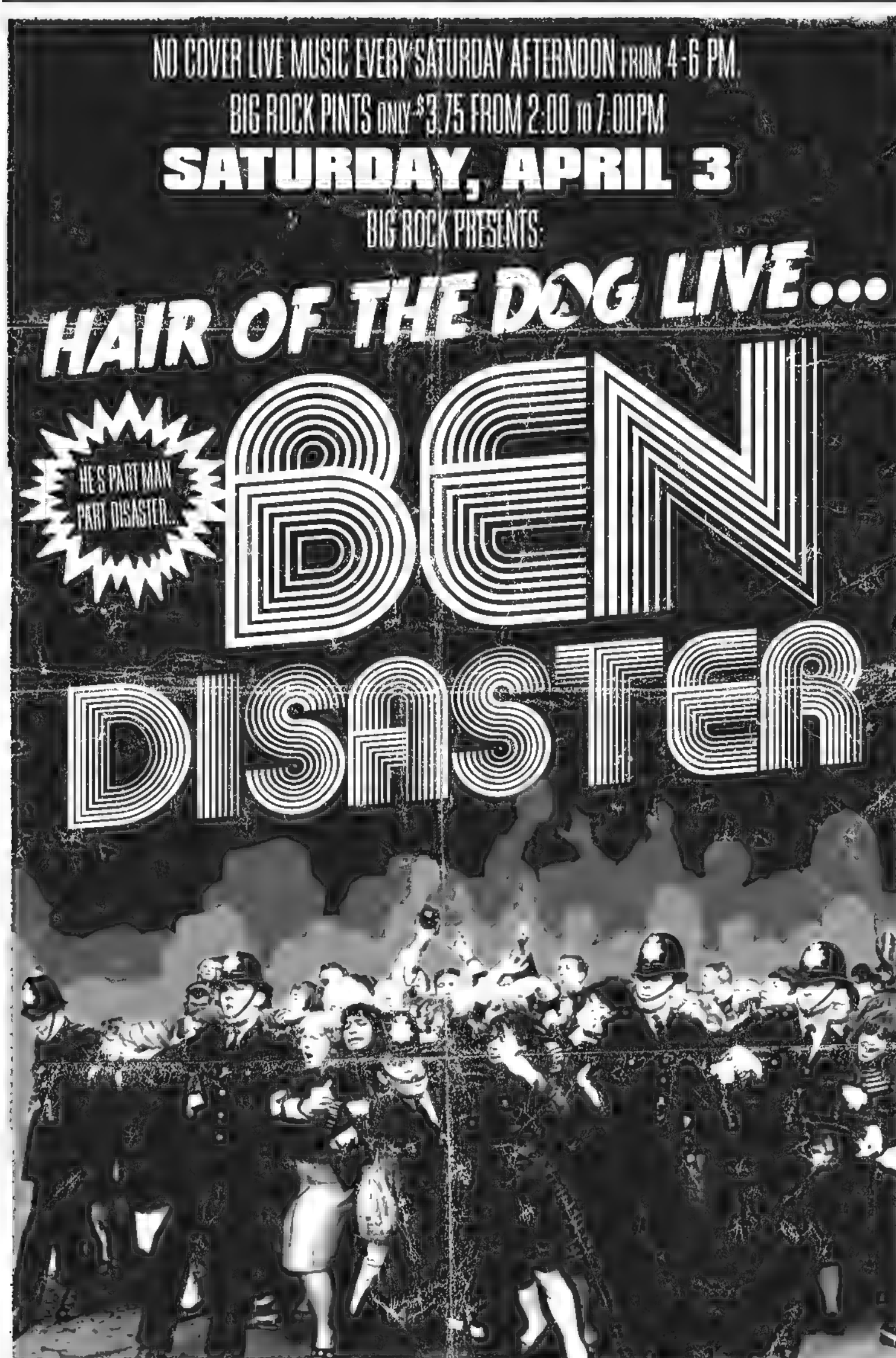


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## PIERRE MCGUIRE-ISM OF THE WEEK



Since this is the final installment of our Pierre McGuire-ism of the week, it's time to cap off this fine young ad space in style with more monster Pierre content than a Sutter or Staal brother can shake an active stick at. In the beautiful city of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, the Gateway's scouting staff found a hidden journalistic gem. This big-body presence showed puck poise to take his game to the next level. Elevating his play to new heights, this kid is ready for the show. That's why the Gateway is proud to select from the *Lake Bonavista Community Gazette* Matt Hirji as Sports Editor for 2010/11. If you want to be a real-deal sports journalist, email [sports@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:sports@gateway.ualberta.ca) to find out how you can play for Hirji's team.

**GATEWAY SPORTS:**  
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# Blue Jays finally have a flight plan with new general manager Anthopolous



EVAN  
DAUM

Sports  
Commentary

With Major League Baseball's spring training starting to wind down, I think it's time the world knows where my sporting allegiances fall: I'm a Blue Jays fan.

Well, this is slightly embarrassing. But hey, go ahead, laugh it up, you pinstripe-wearing Yankees fans. I know the Jays have been a laughing stock for far too long.

Only a select group of fans can claim to be real Jays fans because, after all, it's hard to cheer for a team that hasn't made the playoffs since I was a toddler. What I'm saying is that, if you don't remember the last time Canada's lone MLB team was a contender, you're not alone.

I was reminiscing earlier this week about the glory days of the Jays. Watching Joe Carter hit the World Series-winning home run in Game 6 of the 1993 Fall Classic on DVD got me all teary-eyed, like that time I watched *The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants* — that flick gets to me every time.

But even though I love sitting around thinking about the glory days of my favourite team, it's time I stop living in the past and look at the here and now.

I'm still a dedicated fan, plain and simple. Name one other person you know who's flying to Toronto for one day to watch the Jays home opener

against Chicago later this month, and I'll show you a person that is certified loco. Yes, I know what that makes me, but I can't help it.

My passion for the Jays is what brings me here to you today. It's time I tell you of a man named Alex Anthopolous, a Canadian we can all give a resounding "Opa!" to. The Jays new general

the job, now up to more than 50.

For a team that tried to get a quick fix under former GM J.P. Ricciardi through the signing of a few big-name free agents like A.J. Burnett and B.J. Ryan, the increased commitment to scouting is a good start as Anthopolous starts to build up a once-proud franchise from almost scratch.

While Anthopolous has his work cut out for him when it comes to making the Jays competitive again — and I don't just mean fighting to stay in the Wild Card race, but rather becoming an AL East contender — he's proven already that he realizes the only way that the Jays will soar once again is by finding and developing players within the organization.

The process is going to be tedious for fans, and while it won't produce a winner this year, if successful, it will avoid mediocre ball clubs year after year like the ones we've become accustomed to as Blue Jays fans.

With a new commitment to player development, and following in the footsteps of other GMs who have been successful in using the draft and minor leagues to build their organizations, Anthopolous has learned from his predecessors' biggest mistake — the pitfalls of a purely free agent based fix.

While I wait for a winner — which is at least three to five years down the road — I guess I'll just have to settle for a stale bag of peanuts, my Roberto Alomar jersey, the 1993 World Series DVD I paid \$2 for on eBay, and a young, long-shot group of Jays on the field in 2010. While that may sound depressing, Jays fans, just be thankful the building process is starting this time with a blueprint.

**The process is going to be tedious for fans, and while it won't produce a winner this year, if successful, it will avoid mediocre ball clubs year after year like the ones we've become accustomed to as Blue Jays fans.**

manager, has already shown signs he's going to do things the right way.

A.A. isn't in a position for a quick fix — a team has to have had even a minor degree of success to work with in recent years before dropping a term like "rebuild." Rather, he's building the Blue Jays from the ground up. Anthopolous has started that process by revamping the people off the field who make or break the foundation on which an organization remains stable for years to come — the scouting staff.

Toronto's team of scouts has almost doubled under the watchful eye of Anthopolous, with the staff, once sitting at a measly 28 scouts when he took

# CHL needs to step up scholarship program



BREN  
CARGILL

Sports  
Commentary

**"From a hockey standpoint, the CHL is the better choice. However, from an educational viewpoint, the CHL is somewhat lacking, behind the NCAA with only about 16 per cent of CHL players going on to graduate university."**

In some areas where hockey communities are expansive, it's become a cultural problem. For instance, many in Quebec were furious when Montreal Canadiens 2009 first-round pick Louis Leblanc decided to go play junior in the States, spurning the local QMJHL. Junior hockey has reached a crossroads with players now having two very viable options to the pros, which then raises the question: is one route is better than the other?

From a hockey standpoint, the CHL is the better choice. However, from an educational viewpoint, the CHL is somewhat lacking behind the NCAA, with only about 16 per cent of CHL players going on to graduate university.

The NCAA, however, is the complete opposite — 84 per cent of their players go on to graduate with a university degree and their scholarship programs are indeed superior to those of the CHL. On the other hand, the quality of hockey isn't fantastic when only a few teams are competitive and, as mentioned above, the value of the coaching in the NCAA — and, by extension the hockey development is lacking.

What could end up putting the CHL back on top in terms of overall quality is the CIS and an improved scholarship program. While the CHL does a good job of promoting opportunities for its players to further their

education by helping them attend university with scholarships for every year played in the CHL, more can be done. If you watched the CIS championship tournament last week, then you saw that the quality of hockey that we have here is phenomenal. The CIS once again had a highly entertaining and competitive level of hockey all year.

The CHL grads that don't go pro, but still want to continue to play hockey, are able to come to the CIS to do both this and get their education, while some are able to continue on to a pro career. Stu Grimson, Cory Cross, Randy Gregg, Joel Ward, and Steve Rucchin are all CIS hockey grads who have gone on to have productive NHL careers with many others playing in the minors and in Europe.

If the CHL ramped up their partnership with Canadian Universities by further expanding the scholarship program they already have in place, it could go a long way in making sure that players who want an education and the best level of hockey choose to stay and play in the CHL.

By knowing they'll be put in the position to succeed academically after their hockey playing days are over, more players will turn their back on NCAA hockey and put CHL hockey back on the top of the junior hockey perch once and for all.



# Whoopee and spicy condiments highlight the Gateway's favourite sports team names



SPORTS  
STAFF

Group  
Commentary

There's a lot of crazy sports names out there. Whether it be team monikers, or the players who wear the jersey, there's nothing like a catchy nickname to suck you in as a fan and endear you to that athlete or franchise. Here's a look at the Gateway's favourite sporting names:



**Nathan Liewicki**

After glossing over team names such as the Albuquerque Isotopes, Columbia Fighting Koalas, and Campbell Fighting Camels, I settled on the Florida Gators as my favourite sports team name.

Yes, it is true that I have a serious man-crush on former Gators quarterback and budding NFL prospect Tim Tebow, but I wouldn't if he hadn't decided to play his college football career in the Sunshine State. Just like the Gators are kings of the swamp, Tebow was King of college football.

Not only does the Swamp typify Florida and its most beloved animal, the gator, but it's the alma mater of a number of great football players, including running back Emmitt Smith and wide receiver Cris Collinsworth.

The fierce gator spirit is not lost on former blue and orange golfers Camillo Villegas and Mark Calcavecchia either. Both have used their fierce Gator chops to become successful on the PGA Tour and promote U.S.- and Canada-wide Gator pride.

Still, the logo and name that corresponds to the University of Florida symbolizes intensity, tenacity, and the goal of striving for conference and national championships.

Plus, what can possibly take down a gator or prevent it from catching and tearing its prey to shreds? A whooping crane? Impossible!



**Matt Hirji**

In the often futile search to find a team worth cheering for, fans have gone

to great lengths to justify their rationale for pledging their support. While large cohorts of fans base their loyalties on their geographic vicinity to a franchise, I often choose to support organizations with interesting names. While there's a lexicon of humorous team names, ranging from the hilarious (Butte Pirates) to the abstract (Minnesota Wild), the most culturally cognizant name belongs to the Albuquerque Isotopes.

When the Calgary Cannons relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico, Calgarian baseball fans voiced their surprise and displeasure. The Cannons were such a staple in the Stampede City that threats from ownership to relocate elsewhere were balked at by hometown fans. It shouldn't have come as much of a surprise then when the Cannons eventually relocated. The narrative had been preceded by an episode of *The Simpsons* where the Springfield Isotopes were in danger of being moved to the same city where the actual Cannons eventually moved.

While it was unfortunate that the

Calgary Cannons didn't have a Homer Simpson-like individual to stage a hunger strike to stop the franchise from relocating, the Albuquerque namesake has become one of the most culturally relevant team monikers in contemporary sports. Perhaps one day, Matt Groening will write an episode where a major league team moves to Edmonton.



**Evan Daum**

Victoria, British Columbia; Mexican food; and hockey — these are a

few of my favourite things, so for this group commentary, my entry was a simple one. I know Victoria isn't synonymous with Mexican food — it doesn't sit well with a large portion of the retired population that calls Canada's most wrinkled city home — but that doesn't mean salsa didn't have a place in the B.C. capital.

During the glory days of Victoria, a proud group of Mexicans laced up their skates, donned their hockey jerseys proudly, and played for the Victoria Salsa of the BCHL. It was a precursor to NAFTA, as Canadians were sent to play soccer for the Mexico City Poutine. The exchange was a massive failure, with both teams going winless during the season.

All right, pretty much all of what I just said was a total load of garbage, except for one thing: there actually was a team named the Victoria Salsa in the '90s. That team name, unfortunately, died in 2006, when the team was renamed the Grizzlies. What does a grizzly bear have to do with B.C.? Salsa was far more relevant than some furry creature that roams the countryside.

The team was eventually forced to change its name after the team's logo, a large jar of — you guessed it — salsa struck so much fear into the opposition that the entire team simultaneously had cravings for nachos.

While I found the name bizarre at first, it slowly grew on me. Salsa. It's a fun word to say. I believe Jerry Seinfeld said it best — "Excuse me, do you have any salsa? Need more salsa. Where is the salsa? No salsa?" No Jerry, there isn't anymore Victoria Salsa, and that's a travesty of sporting name justice.



**Nick Frost**

While names of sports franchises have had some unconventional origins over the years, adopting an animal as one's moniker appears to be the standard for naming most teams. With that in mind, there is absolutely nothing unconventional whatsoever about the name of a team that has been around the block more than a few times in the past 37 years — the Macon Whoopee.

Based out of Macon, Georgia and named after the whooping crane, the defunct franchise was erected in 1973 and has had relations with three different hockey leagues. In all but one instance, however, the team pulled out after one year due to flaccid finances and the fact that, despite affordable ticket prices for games, the team just couldn't make people come. Its most recent tryst with the sport happened in 2001/02 in the East Coast Hockey League.

So why then, despite the lack of success over the years, do I think that Macon Whoopee is so fantastic? Interestingly enough, having watched

videos of the team going at it with others, and having thought long and hard about it, I still can't put my finger on why I enjoy the name so much.

I thought for a while it might've been because it sounds very similar to "Makin' Whoopee," a bouncy, upbeat tune written by German lyricist Gus Kahn in 1928 — but then I realized that the title of said musical number was actually a thinly-veiled reference to sexual intercourse, and quickly dismissed the notion. Likewise, when I heard Bob Eubanks say "making whoopee" on re-runs of *The Newlywed Game*, I put two and two together and thought that maybe that's why I enjoyed the team's name so much. As it turns out, he, too, was referring to sex.

Damn it, for some reason I can't quite wrap my head around why I like Macon Whoopee. So perhaps I'll have to sleep on this one and pull it out in the morning. For now, let's just say that whooping cranes are cool.



**Pete Yee**

Back in the days when my major changed as often as I dined on mac 'n' cheese, I had the bright

idea of rehashing my dream as a 16-year-old to pursue design school. Out of the many schools I checked out, but never bothered to apply to, was the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). The one thing that stood out was the men's hockey team, not for their talent, but for the team name: the Nads.

Imagine sitting in the rink and screaming at the top of your lungs "Go Nads" over and over; how beautiful would that be? Any team that is brave enough to name themselves in a way that references the human reproductive organs is a winner in my books.

Sure, it may be absolutely absurd, maybe even a little embarrassing to be playing for a team with such a joke-worthy name, but the main thing is that they have fun with it. Even better is the fact that the name is completely ambiguous. There are more than enough team monikers to fill the seats in Beaver Stadium.

To cap it all off, the male hockey team's mascot was a giant anatomically-correct set of male sexual genitalia. The image of a giant penis with testicles doing the pump-up routine would be the highlight of the game, win or lose. Seriously though, I love this team name for the amount of fun you can have at a game making, up those slightly inappropriate cheers.



**Ross Vincent**

Though I will always have a special place in my heart for the

Thailand Tobacco Monopoly, if only because I thought they were a G.I. Joe villain rather than a soccer team, the nod has to go to the University of Northern Colorado's Fightin' Whities.

Named in protest to prominent sports teams using Native American stereotypes as their mascots, that message was lost as most people of a porcelain complexion thought it was awesome.

Speaking as a caucasian male, it's refreshing to be stereotyped in sport, where all our differences disappear in the spirit of competition. Besides, their slogan is "every thang's gonna be all white!" Pure gold.



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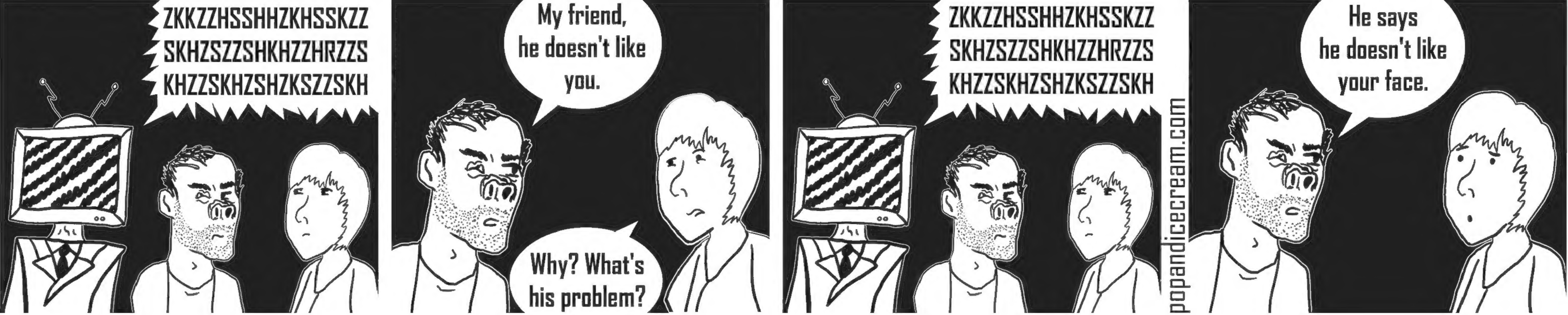
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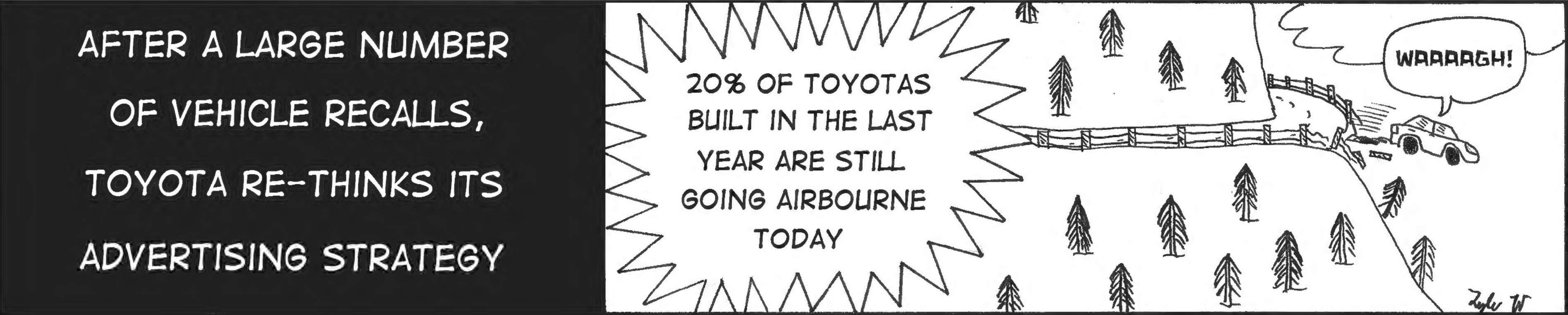
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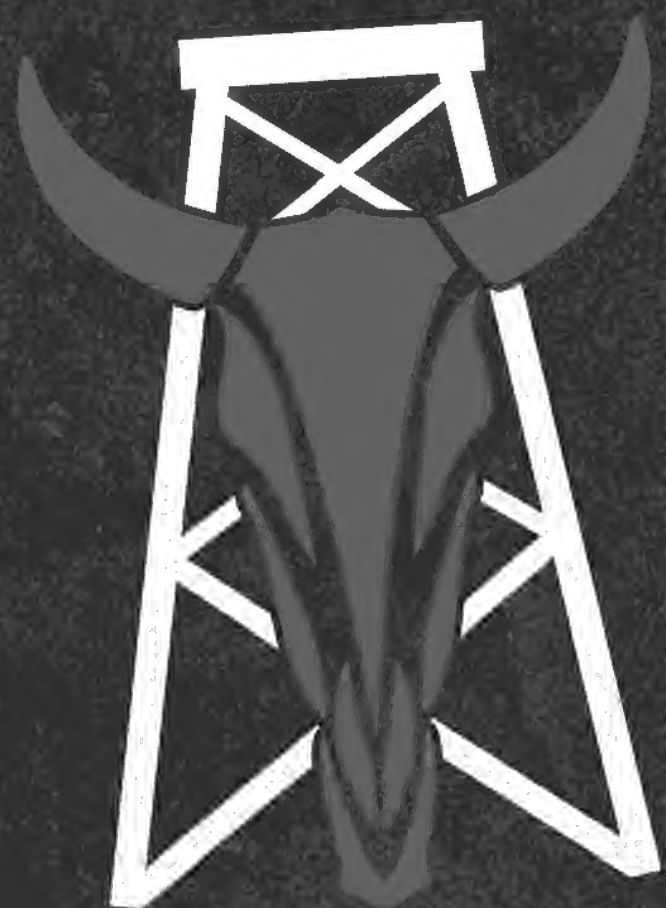
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